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ARAB TIMES

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20 PAGES 150 FILLS

World goes crazy

Millions celebrate hope for '90s

WASHINGTON, Jan 1. (Agencies): The 1990s began with the world assessing the remarkable changes wrought in the last year — with some countries finding cause for great optimism and others doubt.

Romanians, still ecstatic over the revolution that brought down dictator Nicolae Ceausescu less than two weeks ago, were reassured by interim president Ion Iliescu, who yesterday made a renewed commitment to political pluralism. Iliescu, in a wide-ranging new year's address, also announced the abolition of the death

penalty and reintroduced the concept of private ownership. Pope John Paul II hailed 1989 as a year "so rich in profound changes" and expressed hopes the new year would bring peace and triumph over violence and vengeance.

The Pontiff offered prayers before a crowd of tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square, saying: "Let us ask God to help us... construct the hoped-for civilisation of love." Berliners happily indulged in a huge revel along the newly porous Berlin Wall. Fireworks illuminated the midnight sky over the Brandenburg Gate, which until November had been a towering emblem of the city's partition.



Aquino walks with Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin at the presidential palace during the launching of 'Decade of peace' programme. (Reuters wirephoto)



A mother holds her daughter who was one of the first babies delivered at the start of the new decade.

The soot-stained gate was swathed in smoke as young people from around the world clamoured atop the surrounding wall and scaled the gate itself.

An outdoor projection screen collapsed under the weight of revellers after midnight, killing a man and injuring scores of people. East Germany's official ADN news agency reported. It said drunks and a carpet of broken glass from champagne bottles hindered rescue workers.

In Manila, authorities said more than 1,000 were injured and three fires erupted as Filipinos greeted the New Year today with a barrage of fireworks and gunshots in the air.

In London, at least 40 people suffered injuries during rowdy celebrations as Big Ben struck midnight, and an exuberant crowd of about 70,000 New Year's revellers thronged Trafalgar Square to see in 1990 with dancing, singing and drinking.

The changes in East Germany and Romania — as well as those in other East bloc countries — were on the mind of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who said yesterday that "the overwhelming lesson of the 1980s is that socialism has failed."

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu pledged Japan's support today for democratic reforms in eastern Europe, and said he hoped the changes there would favourably influence Asia.

"At present I can't see any change in the region," he said, noting continued tensions on the Korean peninsula and conflict in Cambodia.

Since Asia has different geopolitical characteristics, Kaifu said, it would be an oversimplification to expect a direct transplanting of the reforms being made in eastern Europe.

He urged China, however, to show signs of change so that Western countries could lift sanctions imposed on Beijing after its violent crackdown in June on the pro-democracy movement.

President George Bush invited the people of the Soviet Union to "look forward to a new century, and a new millennium, of peace, freedom and prosperity."

In a video message to be broadcast on Soviet television, Bush said, "there are no maps to lead us where we are going, to this new world of our own making. We can find our way only through co-operation beginning with a candid dialogue."

He praised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as "a good partner in peace" and said, "on behalf of the American people, my wife, Barbara, and my family, I bring you our warmest greetings."

Meanwhile, Soviets looked back on 1989 and saw both a reformed political system — in which some legislators were elected in free balloting — and a declining standard of living. Food shortages have become so acute that many could not find champagne and delicacies for the holiday.

Gorbachev used New Year's Eve to note a year of strikes, ethnic violence and economic strains.

Yet, he said, "the 1990s bid fair to become the most fruitful period in the history of civilisation" if people concentrate on

(Continued on Page 2)



A British policeman gets a warm welcome into the New Year at London's Trafalgar Square. (Reuters wirephoto)

Beware of tyranny

Cory revamps cabinet

MANILA, Jan 1. (Agencies): Philippine President Corason Aquino, warning army rebels will impose a new "yanny" if they topple her, called today for sacrifices to build the country and told the rich not to "flaunt your wealth nor abuse your privilege."

Aquino made the appeal as the military announced a manhunt for cashed army Colonel Gregorio Honasan and other fugitive leaders of last month's bloody coup attempt, the sixth and most serious of her four years in office.

Aquino presided over a presidential palace ceremony today dedicating the 1990s as a "decade of peace" in the Philippines.

"The night of darkness that we just went through makes imperative this call of peace," Aquino said. She said the peace Filipinos were seeking could not come from "godless" communist rebels fighting a 20-year insurgency.

"Nor can it come from the fascist right whose lust for wealth and power would bring us back to the dark days of the tyrant," Aquino added, referring to the ousted government of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

She called on Filipinos to "share burdens and sacrifices" to rebuild the country's "coup-fractured economy."

"To the wealthy and privileged of this land, those who enjoy economic and political power, I ask you to live lives of strong moral values and not to flaunt your wealth nor

abuse your privilege," she said.

On the eve of the new decade, Aquino replaced eight ministers and fired her intelligence chief in a major cabinet revamp to revitalise her government following the bloodiest coup attempt against her.

She retained Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, who will open talks in mid-January with US negotiators on the future of American military bases in the Philippines, and Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos who helped put down the coup attempt.

Presidential spokesman Adolfo Azcuna described the new cabinet as "an action team" that could take the Philippines into the next decade.

"The time for action is long overdue," he said. In her announcement, Aquino said Jose Cuisia, administrator of the social security system, would take over as Central Bank Governor when Jose Fernandez's term expires Jan 20.

Retired Maj. Gen. Mariano Adaleman was named presidential adviser on military affairs, replacing retired Maj. Gen. Jose Magno. Adaleman was also appointed acting chief of the national intelligence co-ordinating agency.

Aquino also named Jesus Estanislao, former economic planning secretary, to be secretary of finance, replacing Vicente Jayme. Jayme was appointed presidential adviser on economic and financial affairs.

(See Page 2)

Singh plan to help poor

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 1: India's new government today announced a time-bound package of socio-economic programmes as its "New Year gift" to the people and in fulfilment of its poll commitments.

The package includes a promise to bring forward legislation during the budget session of Parliament to amend the constitution to make the "right to work" a fundamental right. An employment guarantee programme will also be implemented progressively.

Also on the anvil is a comprehensive constitutional amendment bill on "Panchayati Raj" for devolution of powers, which will be drawn up after discussion with state chief ministers.

An outlay of at least 50 per cent of investible resources in the agricultural and rural sectors of the economy will be ensured starting with the annual plan of 1990-91.

To give farmers remunerative prices for their produce, the government has proposed to change the method of computing support prices. It will introduce a formula for adjusting support prices for inflation from the date of announcement to the time of marketing. Labour will be costed on the basis of actual wages paid or minimum wages, whichever is higher. The method will also include an element of managerial or entrepreneurial labour in the family labour input and cost this at a higher rate than agricultural labour.

The Agriculture Ministry will appoint an expert committee to recommend way and means of implementing these changes. A meeting of chief ministers will be held by April next to finalise a programme of land reforms.

The government has promised debt relief to small, marginal and

(Continued on Page 13)

Israeli govt about to fall

Weizman fired

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 1. (AP): A religious party leader trying to mediate an end to Israel's government crisis said today that he does not see a way to prevent the collapse of the cabinet coalition of the Likud and Labour parties.

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of the Shas Party made the comment a day after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, head of Likud, set off the crisis by firing Science Minister Ezer Weizman of the centre-left Labour because of Weizman's supposed contacts with the PLO.

"It's hard to say I see a way out," Peretz said on Israel Radio. "Yesterday I did, now I don't. I can only say I'm sorry because the price will be paid by the Israeli people and the government."

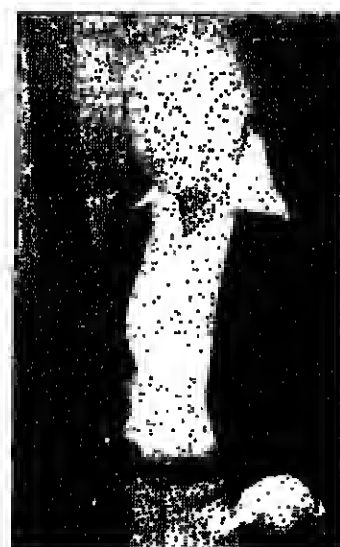
The collapse of the year-old government could be the final blow to Israel's peace plan, calling for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a step toward autonomy for the territories.

Some Labour and Likud leaders were trying to work out a compromise today to save the Likud-Labour coalition, an aide to Shamir said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

After Shamir announced the firing of Weizman yesterday, the Labour Party demanded that the prime minister rescind the dismissal, which takes effect tomorrow.

Labour leaders were reported considering joining left-wing parties in a vote of no confidence on Wednesday, which could bring down the so-called unity government. It was formed a year ago after national elections gave neither of the two major parties enough parliamentary seats to form a government on its own.

Peretz said on Israel Radio that Shamir was refusing to agree to a compromise in which Weiz-



Weizman: sacked

man would lose his post as science minister but would remain as a minister without portfolio in the 26-man cabinet. Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, also criticised the compromise proposal calling for taking away Weizman's science post.

"Why should you give him a punishment? How can you punish a man without an inquiry?" he said on Israel Army radio.

Meanwhile, Dr Ahmed Tibi, the Israeli-Arab physician who supposedly served as a go-between for Weizman's meetings with PLO officials, denied that the 65-year-old government minister had met any figures in the PLO.

Tibi, interviewed from the Jordanian capital of Amman, said he did not want to "relate explicitly" to the charge that Weizman had indirect contact with the PLO.

"Indirect negotiations between the Israeli government and the PLO, perhaps yes," Tibi said. "I don't know any details."

Romania had sold Jews for cash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 1. (AP): Israel paid thousands of dollars in cash to Nicolae Ceausescu for every Romanian Jew he allowed to emigrate to this country, an Israeli newspaper has revealed.

For years, Ceausescu received between five and seven thousand dollars for every emigration visa issued to Jews, and some \$50 to \$60 million ended up in the executed Romanian dictator's own pocket, the Yediot Aharont said in its week-end edition.

Quoting reliable sources, the paper said that the official agencies responsible for immigration in Israel, including the Foreign Ministry and the pseudo-governmental Jewish agency, acknowledged that Ceausescu was paid but would not give accurate figures.

Israeli officials reportedly knew of the payoffs for years, but they dared not expose or publicise it for fear it would halt immigration from Romania, Yediot said.

"Even we, like Israel, knew of the Libyan and PLO involvement in Romania, and of the payment for Jewish emigration, but our interest was the protection of the Jews in Romania and not of what kind of dictator Ceausescu was," the paper quoted an unnamed official involved in the deals.

According to the paper, the money given Ceausescu was not "state funds" but was money raised by various Jewish organisations. It said reliable sources among the Jewish community in the US confirmed that Ceausescu had received the money for the past twenty years.

Edgar Bronfman, the head of the World Jewish Congress, cultivated close ties with Ceausescu and even visited the Romanian ruler in 1988 and was asked to help Romania keep its economically beneficial "favoured nation" status, the paper said.

Saudi security guards foil attempt to hijack plane

RIYADH, Jan 1. (AP): Security guards on a Saudi Arabian airliner yesterday overpowered a man who tried to force the pilot to fly to Cyprus where he said he planned to blow up the plane, an Interior Ministry statement reported.

The statement, distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency, quoted an unidentified official source as saying no weapons or explosives were found on the man, identified only as a 32-year-old Saudi.

The statement did not explain how the would-be hijacker planned to force the pilot to fly to Cyprus or how he planned to blow up the plane operated by Saudi Arabia's flag carrier, Saudia.

But the source noted, without elaboration, that the man was in "an unnatural condition," indicating he could have been under the influence of drugs.

The statement said 30 minutes after the airliner took off on a domestic 600-mile

(1,000-kilometre) flight from the Red Sea port of Jeddah for the capital, Riyadh, the man gave one of the flight attendants a note for the captain.

It demanded that the plane be flown to Larnaca, Cyprus, where he and some companions would blow it up, the ministry statement said.

The plane's sky marshals were alerted and they advised the pilot to return to Jeddah, the statement added.

Premier to visit Egypt

KUWAIT, Jan 1. (Reuters): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah will visit Egypt on January 8, the official Kuwaiti News Agency Kuna said.

In a statement issued following the weekly cabinet meeting, Kuna said he would be accompanied by the ministers of commerce and trade, justice and legal affairs and foreign affairs.

Weather

FAIR weather with light northwesterly wind changes gradually to slight southeasterly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 6.01 am, 4.00 pm
Low water: 9.28 am, 10.33 pm
Sunrise: 6.43 am
Sunset: 5.01 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 22°C 72°F
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F
Fahala: 21°C 70°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 10°C 50°F
Ahmad: 13°C 55°F
Fahala: 13°C 55°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 23°C 73°F
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F
Fahala: 22°C 72°F
Minimum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 10 per cent
Ahmad: 85 per cent
Fahala: 89 per cent

Bomb-threatened airliner Safe plane flight

DETROIT, Jan 1. (UPI): A Northwest Airlines flight from Paris that was the target of a bomb threat landed safely Saturday on a transatlantic trip that carried 22 passengers out of 130 originally booked on the plane.

The DC-10 jetliner landed without incident at 4:40 pm EST (2140 GMT) at Detroit metropolitan airport. Flight 51 was met by security personnel who used dogs in a fruitless check for explosives.

The flight completed its final leg, landing in San Francisco at 12:40 am EST (0540 GMT), one hour and 40 minutes late.

Arch Naylor, a University of Michigan engineering professor who had been on sabbatical in France, said there were "no problems at all" on the eight-hour flight to Detroit. "It was luxurious," he said. "I've never been treated so well. Every-

thing was free and there were tons of movies."

A total of 130 passengers had been booked on the flight from Paris to Detroit but only 22 of them, including an airline publicist, made the trip. Northwest officials said. Officials in Paris had earlier put the number of passengers at 28.

All nine crew members, including Captain Gary Ferguson, made the trip. The airline had allowed them to decline to serve on the flight if they wished.

Naylor's 25-year-old son Dirk embraced him on his arrival at the Detroit airport. Dirk said his father left a message on his answering machine saying that he felt confident and was going to make the flight. The younger Naylor admitted he was concerned, however, and said a sister in California felt their father had made the wrong decision.

Oil slick threatens Morocco

RABAT, Jan 1. (Reuters): A huge oil slick from a stricken Iranian supertanker incident at 4:40 pm EST (2140 GMT) today threatening one of the world's worst-ever ecological disasters.

Overnight south-westerly winds and currents pushed the 175-mile long slick to within 22 miles of the coast with international experts warning of a catastrophe to rival the Exxon Valdez crude spill in Alaska.

Moroccan radio today quoted Environment Ministry sources as saying the situation was under control after the government had earlier appealed for international help to tow the tanker at least 300 miles further from its shore. But shipping sources doubted the accuracy of the reports.

"The slick is as close as 22 miles in places. It is just not possible at that distance to have it under control," one told Reuters.

An international team from France, Britain, Spain and Portugal are battling to contain the spill with booms and detergents. (See Page 13)

INTERNATIONAL

Colombo to discuss pullout with Delhi

COLOMBO, Jan 1, (AP): Sri Lanka will negotiate with India this week in an effort to speed up the withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping troops, a Foreign Ministry official said today.

Foreign Secretary Bernard Tillekeratne will fly to New Delhi on Tuesday to start the discussions, the official said.

Depending on how the talks go, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne may join Tillekeratne in the Indian capital on Thursday, the official added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said Wijeratne will be accompanied by Defence Secretary Sepala Atygalle and the president's foreign affairs adviser, Bradman Weerakoon.

In New Delhi, however, a spokesman for the Indian Foreign Ministry said no dates for the talks had been fixed. The Indian spokesman, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said he expected Wijeratne to arrive about Friday.

The Sri Lankan official said there have been "positive responses from New Delhi" that India might speed up its March 31 deadline for pulling out the last members of the peacekeeping force, the official said.

But the Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "I don't know, really, what they're basing that on."

The Indian government invited both Wijeratne and Tillekeratne, who is the second-highest official in Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry, to New Delhi for talks this week. Indian officials in Colombo and New Delhi said.

Indian soldiers were dispatched to Sri Lanka in July 1987 under an accord signed by Rajiv and Premadasa's predecessor, Junius R. Jayewardene. The peace pact was designed to end a revolt by Tamil guerrillas how sought to create a separate homeland for their ethnic minority in northeastern Sri Lanka.

India initially deployed only 2,000 men to supervise a surrender of arms by Tamil fighters. But the largest Tamil militia reneged on the pact and started fighting the Indians.

New Delhi's involvement in the internal affairs of its small neighbour escalated, with the peacekeeping force numbering about 100,000 men at its peak.

In 1989, Indian troops withdrew in phases from six of the eight districts where they had been based. An estimated 25,000 remain.

At least 17,000 people have been killed since the Tamil insurrection began in 1983. About 11,000 people, including 1,100 Indian soldiers, were killed in the northeast where most Tamils live.

New Year bad luck for Pakistani merry-makers

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1, (Kuna): Islamic fundamentalists and extremists scared away merry-makers and fun-lovers from posh hotels, swank restaurants and lively recreation spots on the New Year's Eve across Pakistan, depriving them of the traditional celebrations.

All the five-star and four star hotels, glamorous restaurants and gaudy clubs known for years as places of hi-entertainment, fun and merry-making remained closed to New Year revellers last night in principal cities of Pakistan, especially Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Peshawar in response to calls by extremist religious organisations.

These organisations had warned by posters, leaflets and

by telephone calls that if celebrations were held as before, these places will be blown up.

Some of the establishments, scared of these threats, announced through advertisements that there would be no celebrations on Dec 31 night and backed it up by hanging warning notices at gates plus deployment of extra security personnel.

In recent years, particularly last year, the New Year revellers who included extraordinary number of girls, created brawls and ugly scenes at midnight mainly due to excessive boozing.

In Islamabad young boys and girls created scenes in adjoining jungles at dead of night.

Aquino revamps cabinet, faces daunting problems

MANILA, Jan 1, (Reuters): President Corason Aquino has revamped her cabinet to steer the Philippines into the 1990s, but faces daunting problems from a coup-fractured economy, a divided military and a long-running communist insurgency.

On the eve of the new decade, Aquino announced sweeping changes in her cabinet team in a bid to revitalise her government following the sixth coup attempt against her in almost four

years. Many politicians predict new efforts to topple her unless the new cabinet can make real improvements in the running of the country of 60 million people.

With two years of her presidential term left to run, Aquino faces a crucial period as she launches talks this month on the future of US military bases in the Philippines.

"Already, even Aquino's once most committed supporters are wondering

how long she will last," said Manila Times columnist Sheila Coronel in a commentary on yesterday's cabinet reshuffle.

"They point to the uncollected garbage, the chaotic traffic, the power shortages, and long for an iron hand that will make daily life more sane."

"For the truth is this government gives democracy a bad name, so that the public mind associates it with corrupt relatives, gun-toting legislators

(and) endless congressional investigations," Coronel declared.

The Independent daily Malaya said in an editorial today that despite the reshuffle the final responsibility lay with Aquino herself, the 56-year-old widow catapulted to office by a 1986 popular revolt against former dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"In the end, it all falls on her shoulders: unless she leads and initiates, all she will have is more of the same con-

fusion and non-direction that has marked her administration," the paper said.

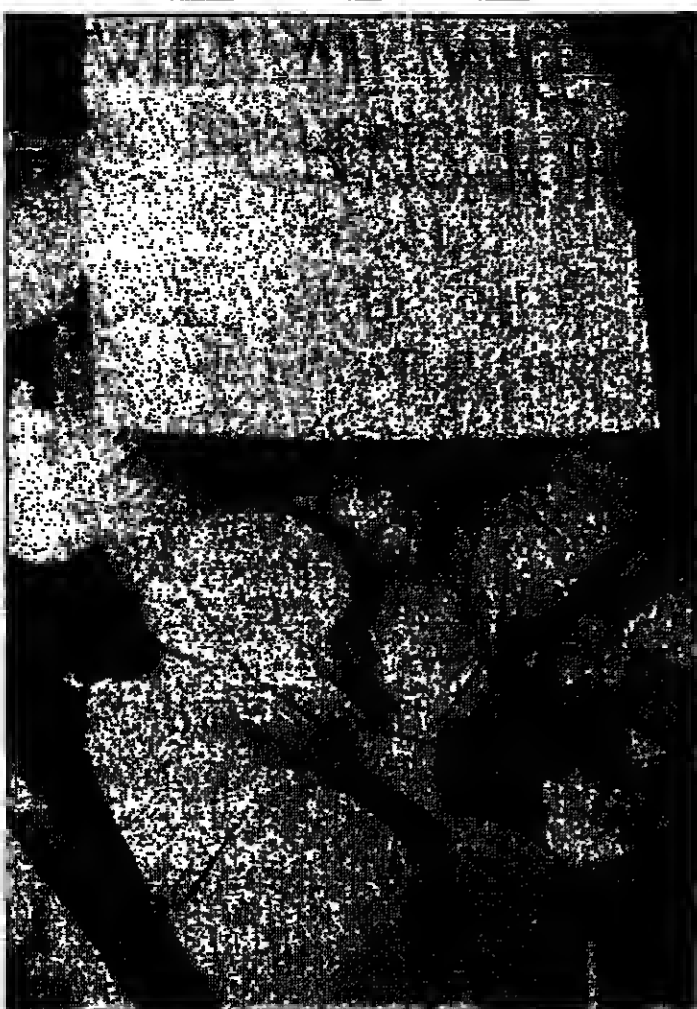
In a New Year pastoral message, the influential Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin condemned the early December coup attempt in the Philippines, but urged the government to initiate urgent and radical reforms.

"Our government... must get its act together, or all of us may forfeit the

hard-won constitutional democracy which is now ours," Sin declared.

Army rebels who staged the sixth and most bloody attempt to overthrow Aquino on Dec 1-7 accused her of tolerating corruption, being indecisive, failing to provide leadership to the country and being soft on communism.

Coup leader cashiered colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan urged Aquino to step down in favour of a new, military-backed government.



Protest at festivities

Demonstrators picketed Delhi's luxury hotels on New Year's Eve, chanting that India's elite was feasting while 80,000 people starved in 1990 from makeshift homes on city's pavements.

But most of the guests who had paid up to \$175 a head for the evening's entertainment had already arrived in their luxury cars and swept inside by the time the protesters arrived to sing in derision.

Police held back the demonstrators, many wrapped in blankets against the damp mid-winter cold.

A few guests watched from the windows of one skyscraper hotel as the protesters waved banners denouncing the 'vulgar' partying and the bribes which India's new government says were paid to officials in a 1986 arms deal.

Two-week death toll rises to 60 Bangladesh shivers

DHAKA, Jan 1, (AP): Eight more people have died of exposure to the chilly weather gripping northern Bangladesh, bringing the death toll in the past two weeks to 60, newspapers said today.

In neighbouring India, at least 61 people have died of cold in the same period.

Tefaq, an independent Dhaka daily, said six people died Sunday in the Panchagarh district where temperatures dropped to 2.5 degrees Celsius (36 Fahrenheit), the lowest in three decades.

Two people died of the cold in Jaipur district, according to Sangbad, another independent Bengali-language newspaper.

Most of the cold wave victims had no homes and were sleeping on the ground.

Sikh strike halts Punjab

AMRITSAR, India, Jan 1, (Agencies): Stores closed and buses and trucks stayed inside depots today in response to a strike called by Sikh militants in Punjab state.

The All-India Sikh Students Federation (AISF) claimed their strike was successful throughout Punjab, but Punjab's top police official said traffic and business functioned normally in much of the northern state.

However, Amritsar, site of the Golden Temple, the Sikh faith's holiest shrine, appeared virtually shut down by the strike.

The state's director general of police, K.P.S. Gill, said there had been no reports of strike-related violence.

Although New Year's Eve is widely celebrated in India, stores normally are open Jan 1 since New Year's day is not an official holiday in India.

The Sikh students federation, which functions as the youth wing of the movement to create a separate Sikh homeland in Punjab, called the strike to press demands for general amnesty for Sikhs arrested since 1978.

Mrs Gandhi was killed in retaliation for her decision to send the army into the Golden Temple to dislodge armed Sikh separatists. About 1,200 people, mostly Sikhs, were killed in the 1984 raid.

Sikh agitation for independence or autonomy for Punjab exploded into violence seven years ago. Sikh extremists have killed at least 7,500 people in Punjab since 1982.

Five people were killed in the first hours of 1990, Press Trust of India reported.

The news agency said the victims included a Sikh police constable who was dragged out of a New Year's celebration at his family's home in the village of Ratta near Amritsar.

The constable, Jaswant Singh, was shot and killed in a field early today.

Although the Sikh radicals initially targeted Hindus in their campaign of violence, in the last few years they have attacked Sikhs who do not support their cause.

The radicals have rarely called strikes to highlight their cause, relying mostly on individual killings at night and occasional mass-secess.

The police blamed at least 1,821 deaths in 1989 on the extremists in Punjab where Sikhs are in a slight majority.

Political sources said the strike was an AISF attempt to reassert itself after the nine hardline Sikhs, two of them contesting from prison cells, won parliamentary seats.

They said the militants, many of them unemployed youths, fear the new legislators will compromise on the demand for an independent homeland.

Several militants were freed as a goodwill gesture by former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi after his Congress Party lost the election.

Singh immediately made a dramatic visit to the Golden Temple, shedding security to voice regret at the 1984 bloodshed there.

"AISF leaders want to prove their organisation is a force to reckon with," said one Sikh leader who declined to be named.

He said AISF leader Harmandir Singh Sandhu, freed last month after more than five years in prison, wanted nothing short of Khalistan.

"Sandhu wants to assert himself and the strike is one of the means."



A man wriths in pain after a firecracker exploded on him during New Year celebrations in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

11 die, 2,400 injured Manila greets New Year

MANILA, Jan 1, (Agencies): Filipinos greeted the New Year with a barrage of fireworks and gunshots in the air.

In a New Year's message, President Corason Aquino urged Filipinos to work for stability, and promised renewed efforts to solve the nation's problems.

On Dec 1, thousands of military mutineers launched the sixth and bloodiest attempt to topple the nearly 4-year-old Aquino administration. Key military leaders, including former Lt Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, remain at large and have threatened to continue efforts to oust Aquino.

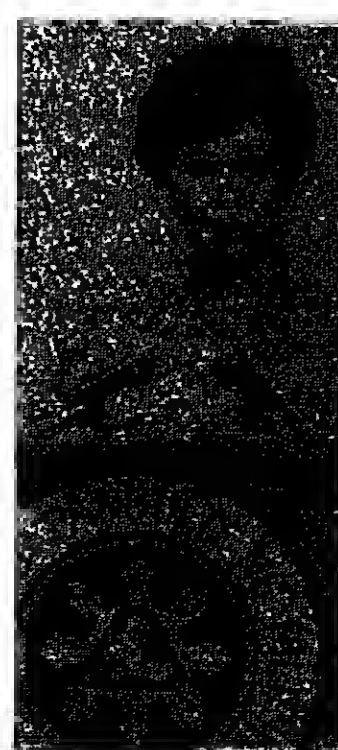
Amid the New Year's revelry, fireworks accidents triggered at least five fires in the capital and burned down a garment factory in a nearby province, officials said.

Explosions rocked Manila and colourful streamers roared into the sky throughout the night, despite police warnings that they would enforce a ban on private fireworks displays.

A spokesman for the police capital command said there were no reports of arrests.

Government television said at least eight people were killed by fireworks and stray bullets fired into the air.

Officials at Manila-area hospitals reported 1,640 people were treated for gunshots and fireworks-related injuries, including burns and missing fingers.



Cory shake-up

Philippine President Corason Aquino in televised speech from the presidential palace announced sweeping changes in her cabinet following the coup attempt. Aquino replaced her finance secretary and seven other ministers and fired her intelligence chief. (Reuters wirephoto)

Forty-eight of those were wounded by stray bullets, hospital sources said.

In addition, hospitals in

nearby Bulacan province, center of the country's fireworks industry, reported 75 people were treated for fireworks injuries.

Most of the injured were children, officials said.

Firecrackers thrown by revelers set off a fire that leveled a garment factory in the Bulacan town of Balagtas before dawn today. Damage was estimated at one million pesos (\$45,000).

Last year, police said nearly 1,000 people were injured and 41 killed during new year's celebrations in Manila alone.

Fires were reported overnight in five areas of Manila, where most structures are made of wood. Damage was estimated at 13 million pesos (\$591,000). About 170 families were left homeless, officials said.

At least 11 Filipinos were killed and 2,400 injured as the nation welcomed a new decade in an orgy of gunfire and firecracker explosions.

Fireworks caused some of the 12 fires that broke out in Manila during the night, rendering hundreds of families homeless in the tumult of the new year revelry, police said.

By noon of New Year's day, scores of revelers were still streaming into hospitals around the city, many cradling hands with missing fingers blown off by firecracker blasts.

"We just can't cope. They keep coming in, men, women and children. Many have lost their fingers," Nurse Imelda Cala of the east avenue medical centre said in a telephone interview.

Revellers ignore rain in New York

(Continued from Page 1)

"solidarity, co-operation and accord."

"The necessity to combine socialism with democracy has again been vigorously reaffirmed in the dramatic events that occurred in Berlin, Sofia, Prague and Bucharest," Gorbachev said.

Chinese communist party leader Jiang Zemin said yesterday that socialism alone will continue in his nation as China works to maintain social stability.

"With a stable society, we can do things better," he said in a New Year's eve interview broadcast on China central television. "The economy can develop, people can live in peace and prosperity, and their life can be improved."

"We have paid some price and gained experience as to how to persist in the socialist orientation and how to fight bourgeois liberalization," he said. "Through this kind of tempering, our party has become more mature."

In the United States, merry-makers tossed confetti, squeaked horns and popped champagne corks and orchestras dusted off the sheet music for another rendition of "Auld Land Syne" to ring in 1990 and a new decade.

Police estimated 200,000 revellers ignored daylong rain and packed Times Square in New York, chanting in unison to count down the last seconds of the 1980s as they watched a light flare down a pole, just as it has most New Year's eves since 1907.

In South Africa, leading newspapers yesterday said that reforms by President F.W. de Klerk in his first 100 days in office make 1990 a time of hope.

"In the coming decade, there should be no doubt in the minds of all South Africans that blacks will at last take their full place in representative parliamentary politics and government," the Sunday star of Johannesburg said in an editorial.

Two Italians were killed, one a 10-year-old boy, and nearly 800 people injured when Italy celebrated the New Year with an explosion of fireworks and gun shots.

The boy, Nello Capuano, was killed today when a homemade firework exploded in his hands on the island of Ischia di Naples, police said.

Antonio de Massis, 46, died when a stray bullet hit him as he watched fireworks last night from the balcony of his flat in the southern town of Foggia.

The Interior Ministry put the national injury toll from burns and other wounds, including from bullets, at 779, slightly higher than the previous year, when no deaths were reported.

More than two million Japanese, hoping to start the year off the horse on an auspicious note, thronged Tokyo's Meiji shrine today in long lines that started at midnight of New Year's Eve, police said.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad urged Malaysians today to practice religious tolerance.

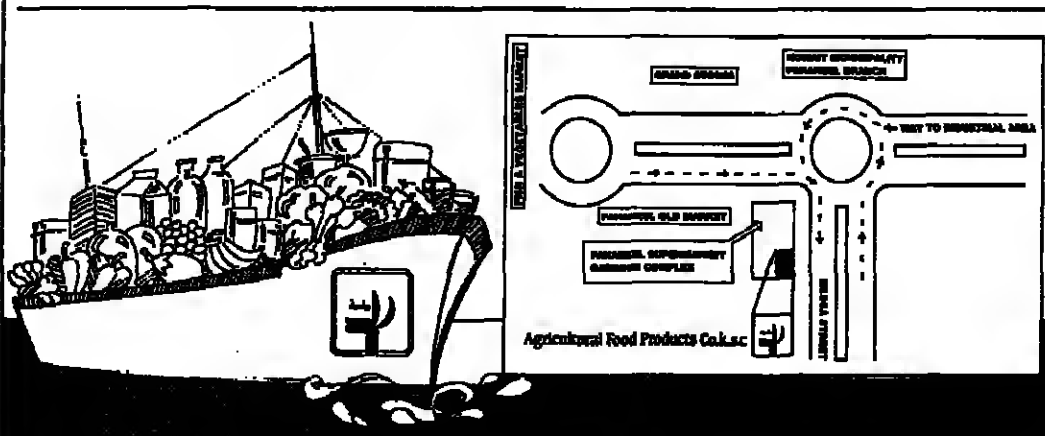
Of Malaysia's 17 million people, 55 per cent are Malays, who are almost all Muslims; 37 per cent are Chinese, who are mainly Buddhist and Christian, and almost all the rest are Indians; most of whom are Hindus.

In a New Year speech at a parade and fireworks display at independence square in downtown Kuala Lumpur, jammed with more than 20,000 people, Mahathir said Malaysians should have respect for each other's religious beliefs.

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Filipino kidnappers free French priest

MARAWI CITY, Philippines, Jan 1, (AP): Muslim bandits released a French missionary and his niece on New Year's Eve, one day after they were kidnapped in the lawless southern Philippines, officials said today.

The Rev. Michel de Gigord and his 29-year-old niece, Benedict, were freed unharmed about 8:30 pm (1230 GMT) yesterday after negotiations between the kidnappers and local officials, military and civilian authorities, said.

They were handed over to Roman Catholic officials and were expected to leave for France as soon as possible.

The two were abducted Saturday after leaving Saint Mary's convent in Marawi, 800 kms (510 miles) southeast of Manila.

Church sources said De Gigord was driving his niece

towards Iligan city, 36 kms (20 miles) to the north, when six armed men stopped their car near the convent's gate.

One of the gunmen shoved De Gigord from the driver's seat and, followed by a jeep boarded by the other kidnappers, drove the priest's car to the shores of nearby Lanao lake and sent the two victims by boat to an island in the lake, officials said.

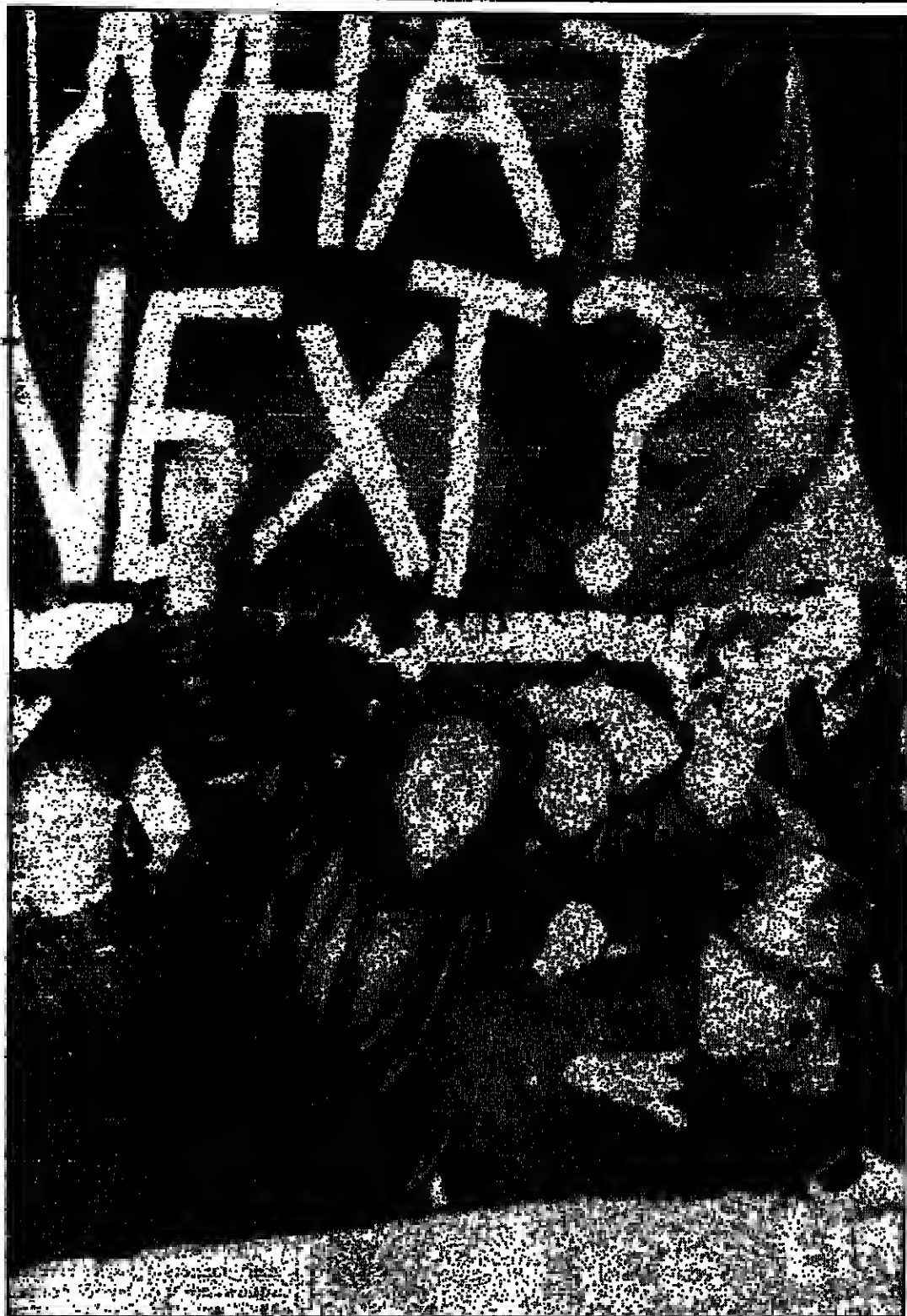
Neighbours who saw the abduction immediately informed authorities in the convent who notified the local police.

Pursuing policemen engaged in a gunbattle with some of the gunmen who had been left behind on the lakeshore, killing one of them, Marawi police station commander Capt. Jalandoni Cota said. He said the others escaped.

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New Year's Eve marked

New Year's revellers celebrate at midnight the beginning of the 1990s in New York City's Times Square on Dec 31. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

STOCKHOLM, Sweden: (AP) Swedish live-in couples who have long struggled off the formality of marriage are rushing to wed because of a change in the death-benefit law. Couples are flocking to churches and town halls to marry before today, when new rules come into effect. At stake are widows' pensions of up to 1,000 kronor (\$160) a month.

Stockholm city hall registered used to perform about 12 marriages a week, and only on Fridays. Now they carry out six weddings every 30 minutes, seven days a week. (AP)

TOKYO: A Bengal tiger has bitten off a 19-year-old woman's arm as she was giving it water with a hose from outside its cage at a northern Japan safari park.

A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the right arm of Kinsu Nagasaki was bitten off at the elbow at the Tohoku Safari Park Zoo in Fukushima prefecture (state), 240 kilometres (150 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

Ms Nagasaki, who had been feeding the tiger and cleaning its cage daily since April 1, told police from her hospital bed that she was giving the animal water from outside the cage, but declined to discuss details, the official said. (AP)

DALLAS: A food store chain is hoping that the unblinking stares of three police officers will deter shoplifting, even if the policemen are only 6-foot (1.80-m) cardboard cutouts.

The police officers stationed in Kroger stores this week are life-sized and look pretty real. But they're scarecrows, operating on the same principle as scarecrows.

Police in London noticed a decrease in shoplifting after they put up cardboard policemen in stores, Dallas police Lt. A.J. D'Alessandro said. (AP)

Ciccolina Topless protest

ROME, Jan. 1, (Reuter): Italy's porn-star turned politician Ilona Staller stood topless in a freezing wind on Saturday to protest at the animal fur trade.

Under a banner reading "better nude than clothed in fur," the 37-year-old politician, better known as "Ciccolina" (little fleshy one) stopped the traffic in front of one of Rome's leading furriers by baring her breasts to the press cameras.

The member of parliament for Italy's radical party was accompanied by her former colleague Barbara Berlusconi — also topless but with a white animal fur draped across her shoulders.

The fur, both sets of breasts and the shop widow were liberally doused with fake blood. Staller said she was sponsoring a parliamentary bill to outlaw experiments on animals and the killing of animals for their skins.

LONDON: Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has paid £10.5 million (\$17 million) for a new home in London's exclusive Eaton Square, the Sun newspaper reported.

The 6-storey, 18th century house has 10 bedrooms, an indoor swimming pool and a billiards room and was advertised as the "finest residential house in Belgrave," the district between Buckingham Palace and Chelsea.

The Sun said the house was once owned by Soraya, ex-wife of international arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. (AP)

LONDON: The sagging bodies of British naturists, who enjoy spending their holidays naked, are seeking some firm young flesh to boost their image.

Alan McCoskie, 63, editor of "British Naturism" magazine, said only a small number of Britain's 10,000 naturists are under 30 years of age.

"Our movement is pitifully short of young people in their teens and twenties. It's no good having a membership mostly over 40 which in 10 years time will be over 50," he said. (UPI)

LONDON: A young Ukrainian girl flew back home from Britain Sunday after life-saving brain surgery that was funded by Ukrainians living in Britain.

Kristina Krivitska, 6, suffers from hydrocephalus and epilepsy. Soviet doctors operated unsuccessfully to remove fluid that had built up on her brain and said there was little more they could do for her. (UPI)

LEVICO TERME, Italy: The mayor of this northern town said Saturday he had received a bill from Roman Catholic church authorities for a series of special masses celebrated since 1930.

The mayor, Giuliano Galgher, said church authorities were insisting on payment of 10,000 lire (about \$9) for each of seven special masses celebrated each year since 1930.

The church said the town had requested the special masses in the 17th century when it was troubled by the plague. (AP)

SHANKLIN, England: Staff at a plush restaurant found themselves serving turkey on a silver platter to a dog after its name was picked out in a raffle.

The cocker spaniel — appropriately called Lucky — was entered in the competition by his owner, Phyllis Walsley, of Shanklin, on the Isle of Wight, off England's southern coast. (AP)

Crime to abuse elephants in California

IN California, it will be a crime to abuse an elephant. In Florida, people who want to dive for scallops will have to buy a license. In Illinois, the Tully monster will become the official fossil.

These and scores of other new laws take effect across the United States come the New Year.

In several states, new measures are going on the books that deal with gun control, alcohol, drugs and smoking.

California has a law inspired by the January attack on a schoolyard, in which Patrick Purdy gunned down five children

with an AK-47 semiautomatic assault rifle and then shot himself to death with a handgun. With the new law, military-style assault weapons identified on a special list will be severely restricted. The list contains some 55 pistols, rifles and shotguns that will be barred from manufacture, importation or sale.

Maryland will bar sale of handguns unless they are on a list of weapons approved by the handgun roster board. That law is aimed at so-called "Saturday night specials."

Oregon gun buyers and people seeking

licenses to carry concealed handguns will face stiffer identification requirements and background checks.

In New York, a new law aims to curb under-age drinking. Police will be able to issue a \$50 summons to people under 21 for mere possession, instead of purchase, of alcohol.

Two states are imposing new crackdowns on drunken drivers. In Connecticut, police officers will be permitted to revoke on the spot the license of a driver who fails a blood-alcohol test. In California, it will be a crime

to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 per cent or greater, toughened from .10 percent.

The elephant law in California stems from the 1988 case of an 8,000-pound (3,628-kilogram) pachyderm named Dunda at the San Diego wild animal park. The animal was "subjected to two days of beatings which caused apparently severe injuries and trauma to the head area," according to a city attorney's report. Zoological society officials acknowledged the beatings, but said the elephant needed to be disciplined.

Dinkins sworn in mayor of NY

NEW YORK, Jan. 1, (UPI): David Dinkins became the city's 106th mayor and the first black man to hold that office minutes after midnight in a brief, solemn ceremony attended by South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

The new mayor was hailed as a "Moses" who came upon the city as a deliverer in a prayer offered by Bishop J. Clinton Hoggard, of the Ame Zion Church in Washington, DC just before Dinkins recited the oath of office.

Bowing his head and mopping his brow, Dinkins, was joined by his wife Joyce, his son David Jr and his daughter Donna, as Bishop Clinton recalled the momentous breakdown of the Berlin Wall and the historic events of recent days in welcoming the historic new administration.

Bishop Clinton prayed for a repeat of the blessing bestowed on Joshua: "As I was with Moses, so shall I be with thee."

Repeating the words spoken by his longtime friend, Judge Fritz Alexander, who administered the oath, Dinkins pledged to "uphold the constitution of the United States of America, the constitution of the state of New York and the charter of the City of New York."

With his hand resting on his family's Bible, Dinkins pledged to "faithfully discharge the duties of the office of the city of New York to the best of my ability."

The private ceremony, attended by family and 100 of Dinkins' closest friends, was held at Judge Alexander's Bronx home. The judge was once a law partner of the new mayor.

Along with Bishop Clinton, father-in-law of the mayor's daughter, were longtime political and personal associates, including former Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, Basil Patterson, and Congressman Charles Rangel.

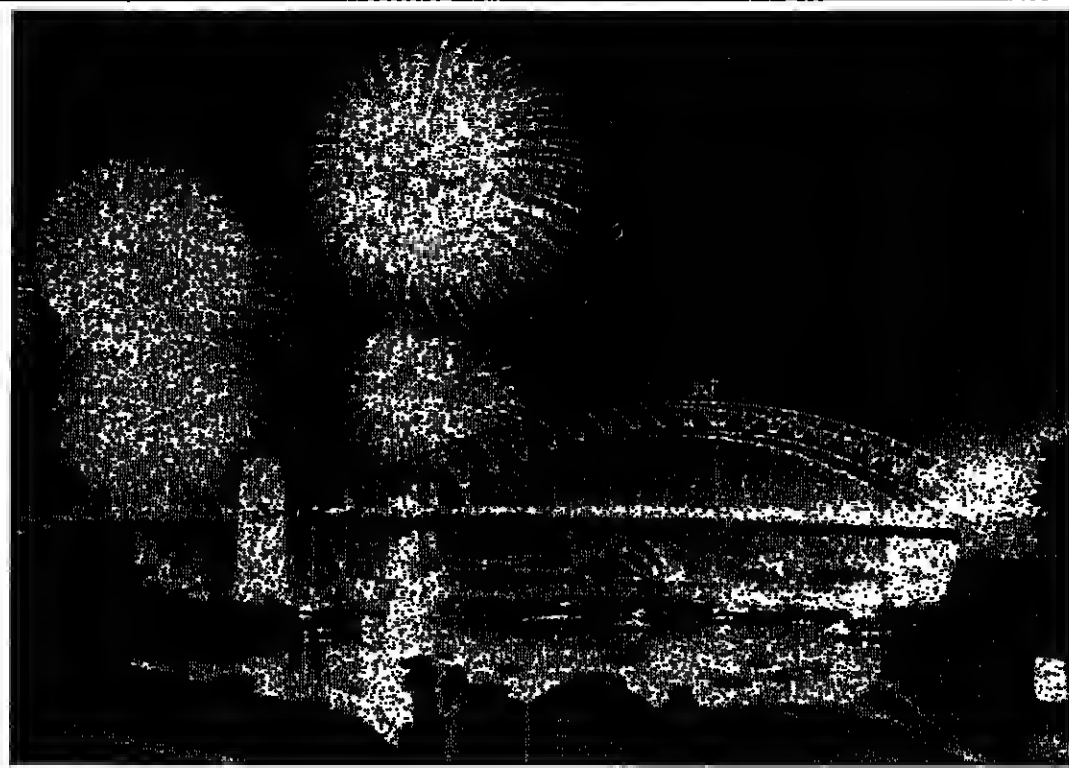
Jackson and Tutu, who was in the city for the inauguration festivities, also were guests at the swearing-in ceremony.

The simple ceremony contrasted the finely orchestrated and celebrity-studded pageantry of the public swearing scheduled for new year's day when the mayor would repeat the oath of office before an invited crowd of over 12,000.

The ceremonies today were designed to mirror what Dinkins has called the "gorgeous mosaic" of New York's ethnic and racial groups. The inaugural party will include 200 homeless people invited by the city's first black mayor.

Dinkins, the Manhattan Borough President who defeated three-term incumbent Edward Koch in the September democratic primary, has filled many of his key posts with women and minorities, including Houston Police Brown, who is black and will be New York's Police Commissioner.

Dinkins spent Sunday afternoon at an ecumenical prayer service at the church of the intercession in Washington Heights which featured sermons and prayers by religious leaders of all faiths, including Tutu.



Sydney lightens up

Fireworks explode above Sydney's Harbour bridge and opera house Dec 31 as revellers celebrated the New Year on the harbour and in downtown Sydney.

Police said of the 300,000 people who poured into the area to celebrate, there were only 80 arrests. (Reuter wirephoto)

Arraigned for selling crack cocaine

Police arrest 9-year-old boy

Boston, Jan. 1, (AP): Police had tears in their eyes when they booked a 9-year-old boy who allegedly sold crack cocaine to an undercover officer, an official said.

The 3-foot-11 (94-centre) tall, 95-pound (43-kilogram) youngster was arraigned in Roxbury district court on juvenile delinquency charges. He was released to the custody of his grandmother, with whom he has been living because his mother is in prison, police said.

The boy's name was not released. "It was a very sad and traumatic thing to see a little 9-year-old boy sitting in the station arrested for drugs," deputy superintendent Robert Hayden said. "I saw some veteran officers with tears in their eyes over this incident."

Among the youngest children arrested around the country on crack charges have been a 10-year-old Detroit boy in August and a 10-year-old boy on Long Island, New York in January.

Boston police said they sought an arrest warrant for the teen-ager whom the 9-year-old identified as the supplier of the crack.

"The little boy would go out and sell until the end of the night when he would reach the person who would give him money" for the sales work, Hayden said. The boy told police he had been selling for about two weeks.

The 9-year-old had \$68 in his pockets, probably from drug sales, when he was arrested, police said.

Panther on the prowl

ROME, Jan. 1, (UPI): A ooted Italian lion tamer believes that an escaped black panther which has eluded police for four days in the Rome suburbs could be throwing tracker dogs off his trail by sleeping in trees during the day.

"We must remain calm," animal trainer Nando Orfei said Saturday as police reported unconfirmed panther sightings from a frightened public in three widely separated outlying areas.

"This panther has given no indication that he wants to attack humans," Orfei said. "And as the search continues, it will be possible to capture him sooner or later because panthers habitually sleep in trees during the day. This causes dogs to lose all trace."

"Also, these animals usually don't stray very far from their territory."

In collaboration with a Rome newspaper, Orfei has set up a "hotline" to field calls from the public about the escaped beast.

Though Orfei believes humans may be safe, farm animals certainly haven't been.

Orfei said that he has received reports of several goats which appear to have been mauled. Several sheep were killed earlier this week, according to police.

Police continued their search for what Orfei described as the 50-60 kg adult panther using helicopters and tracker dogs.

Officials believe that the big cat escaped or was turned loose from a home where it may be kept as a pet.

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Too well to stay with wife

Couple separated

TAMPA, Florida, Jan. 1, (UPI): After 68 years of marriage, a Tampa couple was separated by government regulations that said Otto Russell was too well to stay in the nursing home room he had shared with his wife.

If his health worsens however, Russell may be able to move back into the room he had shared with his wife Evelyn at the university park convalescent centre since October.

Medicaid pays Evelyn's nursing home bills because she requires constant care. But on Dec. 13, Otto's application for similar coverage was denied.

Although he suffers from glaucoma, Alzheimer's disease and other maladies, Otto Russell, 89, is not sick enough to require nursing home care, according to a report by the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS).

His private insurance won't pay to keep him in the nursing home and he cannot pay the 2,000 a month cost for the single bed next to his 92-year-old wife.

His two sons can't afford the nursing home fee either, so on Wednesday, Otto and Evelyn Russell had to say goodbye.

Otto pushed his wife's wheelchair to the room they had shared and helped her into bed, then sat beside her. His sons stood over him and told him it was time to go.

"Am I going to stay here tonight?" the old man asked. "Daddy, you can't stay here," his son Gene explained, one more time. "You can't afford it, we can't afford it. They are going to put another woman in that bed."

"I can't understand at all," Russell said, growing angry. "It makes me sick." As he shuffled toward the door he told a bystander, "we're just living footballs."

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Hand over Noriega

About 100 Panamanians hold a New Year Eve demonstration with candlelights near the Vatican Embassy. They demanded Noriega be handed over to the US. (Reuter wirephoto)

Move afoot to bring Noriega to justice

Panama giving conflicting signals

PANAMA CITY, Jan 1. (Agencies): Deposed Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega passed the New Year's holiday at the Vatican Embassy, where he has been taking refuge.

Two blocks away, behind the line of American soldiers, a crowd of about 200 people stood in a silent candlelight vigil, saying they came to pray that Noriega be brought to justice.

Panama's top legal officer said yesterday he wants Noriega to stand trial in Panama, but President Guillermo Endara said the country's justice system was incapable of trying him.

A church official said that a solution to the week-old deadlock over Noriega is imminent. The toppled leader remained surrounded by US

soldiers at the Vatican's mission in Panama city he sought political asylum.

Noriega has been at the Vatican Embassy since Dec 24, four days after US troops invaded Panama to capture him and install a civilian government led by Endara.

Panama's Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said yesterday he would ask the Vatican to hand over Noriega to stand trial in Panama. However, a senior European diplomat said Cruz' request could be a first step to turning Noriega over to US custody.

"The Vatican, the United States and the Panamanian government have been holding intensive talks since yesterday," Father Fernando Guardia Jaen, an aide to Panama's Archbishop Marcos McGrath said "they are negotiating conditions and who will be handed over to."

The Vatican says it does not want to obstruct justice but it is reluctant to hand over Noriega to the United States, which it has labeled an "occupying power" in Panama.

It could turn him over to Panama which could in turn hand him to the United States, diplomats said.

Cruz did not say what charges would be brought against Noriega, but hinted he could face drug charges and murder charges in connection with the death of 10 officers in a failed Oct 3 coup attempt. Cruz said he had evidence the officers were executed.

Diplomats said the new government was considering drawing up a new extradition treaty to allow Noriega to be sent to the United States, or revise a 1904 treaty which has no provisions for drug charges.

The Vatican has said it was urging Noriega to leave the embassy on his own.

If Noriega walked out of the embassy, he would essentially be surrendering to the approximately 100 US soldiers who have surrounded the building.

If Panama asks for Noriega, the Vatican would, then determine if the charges are of a political or criminal nature and assess whether Noriega would receive a fair trial and his personal safety would be guaranteed, a Vatican official said.

Cruz said charges were being prepared in connection with cancellation of the May 7 elections, in which Endara and other opposition figures said they defeated Noriega-backed candidates. He said they would be filed against former members of the electoral council and other officials who "tried to block the orderly renewal of government powers."

In other developments Panama's Catholic bishops wrote to Pope John Paul II on Saturday urging that he should be handed over to authorities to stand trial. They said people feared that if he were freed in any part of the world he would soon "provoke disturbances, conflict and violence in this suffering nation."

The Vatican Embassy remained ringed by US troops yesterday. Streets were blocked off with tanks and barbed wire, although the playing of loud rock music, which brought complaints from the Vatican, has been stopped.

US President George Bush yesterday chatted with American soldiers wounded in the Panama invasion during a visit to Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Centre in San Antonio, Texas.

Scores of Panamanian troops, including members of an elite battalion, are unaccounted for 11 days after the American invasion of Panama, US officials and military intelligence sources said on Sunday.

The officials admitted that they could be in the mountains planning for a prolonged resistance against American troops or the US-backed government of President Guillermo Endara.

Cuba on Sunday refused to recognise the new US-backed government of Panama, saying it was installed over the bodies of Panamanians who died resisting the US invasion.

"Cuba does not recognise any legitimacy in the self-styled government which says it has assumed power in the republic of Panama," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.



Centam discussion

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Cardinal Roger Eguiluz, personal representative of Pope John Paul II to Central America, met to discuss the current situation in the region. (Reuter wirephoto)



Nuncio talks to US forces

The Papal Nuncio to Panama, Monsignor Jose Sebastian Laboa (in white) chats with an aide at the gate of the Vatican Embassy in Panama. Laboa left the compound to talk to US military officials stationed across the street. (Reuter wirephoto)



Bush visits wounded

President George Bush on Sunday picked his way through hospital beds holding the American wounded on the US invasion of Panama, thanking troops personally for toppling General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"Good luck to you. I'm proud of you fellows, very proud indeed," the President told some of the wounded at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Centre in San Antonio.

Bush sidestepped questions about remarks by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz on Sunday that Panama will ask that Noriega be turned over to the Panamanian government to face criminal charges.

Bush giving a presidential tie back to a soldier during his visit. (Reuter wirephoto)



'It's a screw-up'

President George Bush (right) said on Saturday that US troops in Panama were guilty of a "screw-up" in searching the home of a Nicaraguan diplomat, but he questioned why the envoy had heavy weapons "up to his eyeballs."

"That shouldn't have happened and that has been explained to the Nicaraguans," Bush told reporters after a golf game in Houston. "It's a screw-up."

But Bush implied that the American error was mitigated by the discovery of rocket launchers, automatic weapons and grenades in the home of Nicaraguan Ambassador Antonio Farrey, which was searched by US troops on Friday.

Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft is shown on the left. (Reuter wirephoto)

Building collapses Worker trapped

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Jan 1, A high-rise parking garage collapsed as it was being torn down, trapping a demolition worker under "tons and tons" of concrete, and rescue efforts were considered all but hopeless when the structure crumbled to the ground earlier today.

The 12-storey building just a few blocks from the White House was being dismantled by a demolition crew on New Year's Eve when a portion collapsed at about 4.35 pm. What was left standing tumbled down almost nine hours later while emergency crews were trying to shore up part of the structure in a cold rain to reach the buried worker.

The rubble buried Basilio Barrios, 35, an immigrant from Guatemala and father of five, who was working on the third floor with a blow torch, authorities said.

"In the midst of our trying to determine how to secure the structure so that we could get to him, the building just collapsed upon itself," said Washington, DC acting deputy fire chief H.R. Dove.

"This wasn't an easy job to begin with. We're not going to be finished here for a while," Dove said after the second collapse.

Fire officials said they had not detected any signs of life after sending a tracking dog to search for Barrios, who worked for L. E. B. Demolition Co. an 80-tonne crane was brought in to assist in clearing the rubble.

"The position that he was last located in by eyewitnesses and by his fellow workers... is just under tons and tons of concrete," said Bill Embrey of the DC fire department.

Officials said the structure was too shaky and unstable for humans to enter after the initial collapse. "It could continue to fall. At any moment it could continue to fall," a firefighter warned before the second collapse.

Relatives of Barrios called to the scene by officials clutched each other and sobbed as rescue efforts were underway.

What appeared to be an attempt to break the deadlock, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz announced Sunday that Endara's government was preparing to charge Noriega with the murder of 10 officers of the now disbanded defence forces.

The officers were all involved in an Oct 3 coup attempt against Noriega and were tortured and executed after surrendering, Cruz said.

"We will ask whomever has Noriega to turn him over to Panama so he can be brought to trial," Cruz told a news conference, referring to the Vatican, and added that the request would be made tomorrow or before.

Titan 3 finally lifts off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Jan 1. (AP): A Titan 3 rocket carrying British and Japanese communications satellites soared into space last night after nine postponements as Martin Marietta Corp entered the commercial launch business.

The booster blasted away from its launch pad at 7.07 pm (0007 GMT) today and gave thousands of spectators a dazzling New Year's eve show, brilliantly lighting the night sky as it climbed towards orbit.

"Everything looks good," mission commentator Bob Gordon reported as the rocket sped into space. Twenty minutes after liftoff mission director Vic Whitehead reported the Titan 3 upper stage carrying the satellites had achieved a successful orbit ranging from 117 to 437 miles (187 to 700 kilometers) high.

More than three hours after launch, officials reported that both satellites had been deployed successfully from the upper stage of the Titan rocket.

The Titan got away on its 10th attempt. Originally set for Dec 7, the launch was delayed once by a technical problem and eight times by strong, high altitude winds. The wind was no problem last night and the countdown proceeded without a hitch.

Packed in the nose cone of the most powerful US commercial rocket were the 14,700-pound (6,600-kilogramme) Jcsat-2 and the 3,230-pound (1,450-kilogramme) SkyNet 4 satellites.

10 dead, 15 hurt in Zulu violence

CAPE TOWN, Jan 1. (Reuter): Ten people died in a New Year's Eve gun battle between rival groups of South African Zulu tribesmen fighting for control of townships in Natal province, police said today.

A daily police report on political violence said that a further 15 people were wounded in the battle, which erupted when one side tried to set fire to the home of a rival.

Well over 2,000 people have died in the two-year-old power struggle in townships mainly near the Natal provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg and near the Indian Ocean port of Durban.

The struggle pits warriors of the politically moderate Inkatha movement against supporters of the more radical United Democratic Front.

Inkatha backs Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthezi and opposes economic sanctions against apartheid. The UDF supports sanctions and backs the policies of the outlawed African National Congress.

Police gave few details of the latest clash, but said nine of the dead and all the wounded were UDF members.

It was not clear from the police statement where in Natal the battle was fought.

■ **Liberia:** Police and soldiers patrolled the streets of the capital after an apparent plot to challenge President Samuel K. Doe, the leader said in Liberia.

In a live speech broadcast to the nation Saturday, Doe said two groups of what he called dissidents crossed and entered Liberia from Ivory Coast on Dec 24.

One group attacked a customs post in the town of Butuo, killing a sergeant and wounding another soldier and replaced the Liberian flag with an "unknown flag," Doe said.

They were stopped by two battalions of soldiers. Doe said without elaboration.

The other band surrendered after arriving in the central market of the capital. They confessed to planning to destabilise the government, Doe claimed.

The Liberian leader did not disclose the whereabouts or condition of the alleged dissidents but said further details of the plot would be disclosed in coming days.

Meanwhile, police and soldiers were out in force yesterday and roadblocks were posted on most roads leading from the capital into the countryside.

Doe recalled Liberian Ambassador Harold Tarr from Abidjan, Ivory Coast for consultations and said he would inform the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity of the alleged plot.

■ **Ghanaian leader Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings** named the Deputy Secretary of Health, Dr. Mary Grant, to replace the lone woman in his cabinet who was dismissed in October for "continued acts of disrespect."

Grant replaces Anna Enin whose appointment was revoked for "disrespect... as well as other conduct incompatible with revolutionary humility."

Valley turns to a battleground

Blacks fight blacks

UMSINDUSI, South Africa, Jan 1. (Reuter): Spreading black-against-black violence that is the despair of the anti-apartheid movement has turned this beautiful South African valley into a battlefield of guns, spears and stones.

The Umsindusi valley, its green slopes framed by majestic flat-topped mountains, is one of the new killing grounds in a three-year-old feud between rival anti-apartheid groups.

Well over 2,000 people have died and up to 100,000 have been made homeless in the fighting between warriors of Inkatha, a powerful political movement supported by traditional Zulus and favoured by big business, and the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF), which is denounced by the government as a communist front.

Both groups want to end apartheid but differ on tactics. Inkatha favours change from within the structures created by Pretoria, a strategy the UDF rejects.

They acknowledge that the violent rivalry harms the black cause in its confrontation with Pretoria. The death toll has accelerated in recent months.

The fighting has raged mainly in urban shantytowns around the cities of Pietermaritzburg and Durban in the Indian Ocean province of Natal and a black tribal territory called KwaZulu.

But human rights campaigners say the bloodshed is beginning to move into isolated rural areas like the Umsindusi valley, which contains the KwaZulu villages of Nyavu and Umsindusi.

Nyavu backs Inkatha. Umsindusi is sympathetic to the UDF.

Explode

"The rural areas are set to explode," John Aitchison, an adult education specialist at the University of Natal, told a conference on the unrest which he has monitored closely.

Human rights activist Roy Ainslie said the urban townships were "tied up." "Alliances have been formed and most areas are committed one way or the other... now the rural areas are up for grabs."

Signs of violence were everywhere when white assistant parish priest Mark Hay said a Reuter correspondent made a walking tour of the eerily silent villages.

The villages, home for 10,000 Zulus, face each other from opposite slopes across a river running along the valley floor.

Hundreds have died during the fighting, which killed up to 40 people, badly wounded 100 and wrecked more than 60 homes.

Dozens of huts, rough round shelters built of mud or sand and cement, lay deserted and in ruins. Walls were pock-marked by bullets and shotgun pellets or were smashed in.

Villagers pointed to places where they said friends were backed, shot, stoned or hurled to death. Doors of the few inhabited buildings, including Umsindusi's tiny stone church, were barred with corrugated iron sheeting, benches and chairs.

Saying he was on a peace mission, Hay asked a group of Nyavu women to pass word to their village chief that he wanted to mediate talks on ending the violence.

Watched

Nyavu warriors standing on buildings high up the valley watched Hay tour the village chief's fire-blackened home, wrecked just days before by a raiding party from Umsindusi.

Umsindusi villagers said the attacks began in earnest in September when an Nyavu raiding party, chanting war songs and battle cries, crossed a bridge over the river armed with spears, sticks, petrol bombs and home-made firearms.

Overcrowding eased

Prisoner amnesty

LAGOS, Nigeria, Jan 1. (AP): President Ibrahim Babangida, in a New Year's address today, declared a general prisoner amnesty expected to result in the immediate release of thousands of inmates.

The order follows criticism from a local human rights group that scores of prisoners had died in the last year due to overcrowding, unsanitary conditions.

Babangida, in a television and radio address broadcast nationwide, ordered freed all who have completed three quarters of their terms, those jailed for minor offences whose sentences do not exceed one year and others jailed for life but who have served more than 10 years.

The president also ordered released those awaiting trial who have been held in prison or police custody for more than a year, except prisoners being held for drug-related crimes and charges of manslaughter, murder, armed robbery and economic sabotage.

Bogota nets hit squad leader

BOGOTA, Jan 1. (AP): Authorities say the chief of death squads organised by the Medellin Cocaine Cartel has been arrested at a police roadblock in central Colombia.

Elsewhere, battles between leftist guerrillas and security forces left eight rebels and four soldiers dead, radio reports said.

In other violence, a bomb exploded early yesterday in Bogota, destroying two cars, the national police said in a statement. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

The latest drug-trafficking suspect to be arrested was Jose Manuel Cruz Aguirre, chief of the Medellin Cartel's right-wing death squads, who is wanted in Peru, the administrative security police said in a separate communique.

Cruz Aguirre was arrested Friday night on a highway about 35 miles (56 km) south of Bogota, the security police said.

Death squads financed by drug traffickers have killed scores of peasants suspected of sympathising with leftist guerrillas. The guerrillas have tried to extort cattle ranchers in areas where traffickers hold property.

The death squads also have killed about 740 members of the country's biggest leftist political party, the Patriotic Union, presumably because the party has the support of the country's estimated 10,000 leftist guerrillas.

Cruz Aguirre also was part owner of one of Colombia's professional soccer teams, Deportes Tolima, the security police said. Tolima, the security police said, the security police have claimed for years that drug bosses are among owners of several professional soccer teams in Colombia.

Cruz Aguirre was the third purported member of the Medellin Cartel arrested in four days. The others were Jose Antonio Ocampo Obando and Camilo Antonio Ruiz Vega.

Ocampo Obando, arrested Friday, is considered by Colombian authorities to be the fifth most important member of the Medellin Cartel. He is wanted for extradition by the United States, police said last week.

Ruiz Vega was a top confidant of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the no. 2 leader of the Medellin Cartel who was killed by police Dec 15.

On Saturday, police confiscated a 25,000-acre (10,000-hectare) ranch belonging to Rodriguez Gacha in the central state of Tolima, the security police also said in their communique yesterday.

until all the niceties of diplomacy and international law are fulfilled.

Noriega greeted the New Year at the Papal Nunciature, as the Vatican Embassy is called, surrounded by US troops and armour.

Two blocks away, behind the line of American soldiers, a crowd of about 200 people stood in silent vigil, holding lighted candles, saying they came to pray the strongman be brought to justice.

Up to now, the main stumbling block has been the Vatican's insistence that it cannot turn him over to the United States, which it considers a foreign military power in Panama.

Panama will charge Noriega with murder to break US-Vatican deadlock

PANAMA CITY, Jan 1. (AP): Government plans to charge Manuel Antonio Noriega with murder and other common crimes may break a week-old deadlock between the United States and the Vatican over custody of the deposed strongman.

US President George Bush says he wants Noriega behind bars in the United States to stand trial for drug trafficking, and Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, who succeeded Noriega hours after a Dec 20 invasion by US troops, previously indicated he's not too eager to have him in Panama.

But the Vatican, to whose embassy he sought sanctuary Dec 24, has made it clear it is reluctant to give Noriega up

It says it considers its embassy here accredited to deal only with the Panamanian government, and it has been insisting that so far Endara has not made a formal request for custody of Noriega.

It has similarly indicated there are the centuries-old traditions of political asylum and church sanctuary to safeguard, both of which could be obviated in the case of common crimes — with the Vatican having the privilege of deciding.

So far, the Vatican has granted Noriega temporary asylum and it has not ruled out turning him over to Panama, saying in a statement Saturday it "did not intend to block the course of justice regarding a person accused of

serious crimes."

In what appeared to be an attempt to break the deadlock, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz announced Sunday that Endara's government was preparing to charge Noriega with the murder of 10 officers of the now disbanded defence forces.

The officers were all involved in an Oct 3 coup attempt against Noriega and were tortured and executed after surrendering, Cruz said.

"We will ask whomever has Noriega to turn him over to Panama so he can be brought to trial," Cruz told a news conference, referring to the Vatican, and added that the request would be made tomorrow or before.

Lee to quit as PM by year end

SINGAPORE, Jan 1, (UPI): Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who turned a colonial backwater into a modern industrial giant, announced yesterday, he will step down from the post he has held for 30 years before the end of 1990.

In his New Year's message, the 66-year-old Lee said First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong will be his successor, ending speculation that he would immediately pass the post on to his son, Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Lee Kuan Yew, who has been in control from the time Singapore achieved self-rule in 1959 and full independence from Britain in 1965, said the tiny country of 2.6 million residents "enters the 1990s with its people and leaders confident that they have pulled together when the going got rough, and can do so again."

"For Asia and the Pacific a sound relationship between America and Japan is crucial to stability and growth," Lee said, noting this "may be more difficult in the future without a common threat from the Soviet bloc" swept by democratic reforms.

Exhorted

He exhorted his countrymen to "let the 1990s be the decade when Singapore comes of age as a developed country."

Lee, the country's first and only prime minister, has made it clear he is not retiring but has said in the past he will become a senior cabinet minister.

Western observers expect he will retain veto power on all critical decisions and leave the day-to-day running of the country up to his hand-picked second generation of leaders, including his 37-year-old son, a high-profile minister.

Although Goh, 48, has said he expects Lee Hsien Loong to eventually follow him in the No. 1 job, he ruled out any interim premier label for himself, making it clear he expects to run in the next election in 1993.

"It has been a decade of self-renewal," Lee said of the 1980s, "a new generation has assumed leadership positions in the cabinet, parliament and the public service."

"Before the end of 1990, Goh Chok Tong will take over as prime minister," Lee said, his most explicit statement yet about relinquishing the prime ministry. Skeptics however recalled that Lee indicated five years ago he would retire at 65.

Unwavering

Ignoring criticism from human rights groups world-wide and increasing numbers of young Singaporeans, Lee has been unwavering in his conviction that the multi-racial country overwhelmingly dominated by Chinese was too delicate to withstand any opposition strong enough to challenge his People's Action Party.

Those regarded as threats to the national security have been incarcerated without trials in the government detention centre. Lee has vigorously cracked down on criticism of his government, engaging the foreign press in an unrelenting battle. The circulation of four publications have been hatched for stories on domestic politics.

The Singapore government is currently seeking a contempt of court ruling against the Asian Wall Street Journal.

Chun testimony cut short by free-for-all

Ex-president refuses to apologise

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 1, (Agencies): Former President Chun Doo-hwan yesterday cut short his testimony in Parliament about corruption and abuses during his rule after lawmakers jeered him and shoved each other in several free-for-alls.

One opposition lawmaker raced to the podium where the disgraced former leader was addressing Parliament and shouted, "murderer." Another hurled a wooden nameplate at government lawmakers. One fracas forced a four-hour adjournment of the long-awaited testimony.

"I felt heartbroken that I could not finish my testimony, but I will tell my account of the truth in other ways," Chun told reporters before

departing from the national assembly.

He returned to the Buddhist temple where he has lived in self-imposed exile since leaving office in 1988 after a seven-year term marred by charges of corruption, human rights abuses and misconduct.

Aides said he would not come back to testify.

During the hearings broadcast on nation-wide radio and television, Chun refused to make an outright apology, as opposition parties have demanded, but said he would take "moral responsibility" for wrongdoings under his rule.

He has denied any personal corruption, but 48 of his relatives and associates have been convicted of embezzlement and other crimes.

"I didn't do anything wrong," Chun said.

"It's a lie, it's a lie," one opposition lawmaker shouted as Chun denied almost all charges of corruption, power abuse and misdeeds.

Chun's testimony before about 200 lawmakers and spectators was aimed at bringing calm to South Korean politics, which have been dogged by public demands to reveal the truth behind allegations against his government.

President Roh Tae-Woo, Chun's successor and former associate, appealed to South Koreans in a New Year's message yesterday "to put an end to past affairs once the past president apologises for wrongdoings."

Kim Dae-Jung, a two-time presidential candidate and opposition party leader who was sentenced to death under Chun's rule for alleged sedition, was among the spectators at parliament.

The testimony, which lasted more than 12 hours, was interrupted repeatedly by shouting matches that forced adjournments and a virtual free-for-all involving about two dozen legislators.

A melee erupted after opposition legislators angrily accused Chun of lying about his involvement in the crushing of a 1980 civil uprising in the city of Kwangju. About 200 people died and 1,500 were wounded in the uprising, which was suppressed by the military. Chun was a top military general at the time and became president the same year with military backing.

Opposition and government party lawmakers shouted, jeered and shoved each other in a fracas that adjourned the session for almost four hours.

Although no one was hurt when an opposition lawmaker hurled the nameplate, aides hurriedly led Chun away and government party lawmakers later refused to attend the hearing when it was rescheduled.

Chun was criticised by the public and politicians for what they called insincere testimony. Many accused him of perjury.

"Mr. Chun showed no sign of repentance. His arrogant attitude would incur the wrath of the people," said spokesman Kim Tae-Shik of the largest opposition party for Peace and Democracy.

The No. 2 opposition group, the Reunification Democratic Party, denounced the ex-president as a "man dreaming in a fantasy land."

Some opposition leaders charge the Kwangju uprising was a scheme by Chun and his associates to seize power.

Chun, reading from a prepared statement, denied he played any role in the military suppression of the uprising. He said, however, troops on the scene had a standing order to open fire if a war situation occurred.

"Mr. Chun's testimony was nothing but an insult and blackmail to the people," said a statement from Chonmyin, the largest dissident organisation. "His testimony was full of distorted explanations that will incur public anger."

South Korean Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon expects arms control talks between South and North Korea will be possible in the mid-1990s, the Korea Herald said Monday.

North Korean President Kim Il Sung demanded today that a border wall in South Korea be torn down and free North-South travel ensured as a step toward reunification of the rival states.

HK Chinese encouraged to stay: Howe

LONDON, Jan 1, (AP): Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe said yesterday that Britain is doing the "right thing" by offering special residence rights to key Hong Kong Chinese and rejected China's criticism of the plan.

Britain said it will offer residence rights to 50,000 households, or about 225,000 people, in an effort to prevent the most talented citizens from emigrating before China takes over the British colony in 1997.

On Saturday, China criticized the plan as a "gross violation" of its agreement with Britain and threatened unspecified retaliatory action.

"I have no doubt that we are doing the right thing towards the fulfillment of the joint declaration which we



Toshiki Kaifu, wearing a kimono, practising calligraphy at his official residence. (Rauter wirephoto)



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko smile during a photo session for the New Year. (Rauter wirephoto)

Japan pledges support

New policy for East bloc

TOKYO, Jan 1, (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu today pledged Japan's support for democratic reforms in Eastern Europe, and said he hoped the changes there would favourably influence Asia.

But "at present I can't see any change in the region," Kaifu said in a televised New Year interview, noting continued tensions on the Korean peninsula and conflict in Cambodia.

Since Asia has different geopolitical characteristics, Kaifu said, it would be an oversimplification to expect a direct transplanting of the reforms being made in Eastern Europe.

He urged China, however, to show some signs to change so that Western countries could lift sanctions imposed on Beijing after its violent crackdown in June on the pro-democracy movement.

For the maintenance of Asian peace, Kaifu said, it is essential that China not be isolated. He said he expected to exchange high-level officials with Beijing by spring, and "Japan has no intention of going back on its pledge to extend new loans."

Since June, Japan has frozen talks on \$10 billion yen (\$5.7 billion) worth of loans for China. The proposed loan package is crucial to China's 1991-95 five-year economic plan.

Kaifu is to leave Jan 8 for an 11-day tour of seven European nations, including Poland and Hungary. He said he expected new foreign policy initiatives on Eastern Europe after he returns from the trip.

East-West rapprochement would not affect

Japan's security arrangements with the United States, he added.

He said the treaty was not a product of the cold war, and "is not merely a military agreement. It is the basis of a relationship built on trust between the two countries."

The treaty has allowed Japan to avoid becoming a military power that would cause its Asian neighbours to feel threatened, he said.

Kaifu said Japan would continue to insist on the return of a group of northern islands seized by the Soviet Union in the closing days of World War II before a peace treaty can be concluded by the Soviets.

Meanwhile, he said, the two nations should try to expand relations and continue a "persistent and calm" dialogue toward a peace treaty, even though it would take a long time.

On US-Japan trade frictions, he said his government is making "every possible effort" to reduce Japan's stubborn 50-billion-dollar trade surplus with the United States.

The prime minister said he would decide after returning from Europe on the timing of elections that must be held by summer for the lower house of Parliament. The elections are expected in February.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will send an envoy to China in an effort to mend ties that have been strained since Beijing brutally suppressed a pro-democracy movement last June.

Cambodian rebels urged to quit ranks

BANGKOK, Jan 1, (Reuters): Cambodian President Heng Samrin, whose government is locked in combat with Khmer Rouge and non-communist rebels, today urged guerrillas to break ranks to avoid the country's destruction.

In a New Year message broadcast on Phnom Penh Radio and monitored in Bangkok, Heng Samrin said the rebel groups' aim was to destroy the people and restore the Khmer Rouge to power.

"You should immediately abandon the reactionary Cambodians' ranks and volunteer to return to your families and homes," the President's message said.

In remarks aimed at the whole population, Heng Samrin said: "(You should) be ready to do

everything to prevent at all cost the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime."

Heng Samrin's government came to power 11 years ago after Vietnamese forces ousted Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, who Western diplomats say were responsible for more than a million deaths in their four-year rule.

The Vietnamese withdrew their forces in September, leaving the Phnom Penh government's 60,000 strong armed forces to face an estimated 46,000 guerrillas alone.

Ever since their ouster, the Khmer Rouge have been fighting the Phnom Penh government in an uneasy guerrilla alliance with factions headed by former head of state Prince Sihanouk and the non-communist Son Sann.

Suharto warns of turmoil

JAKARTA, Jan 1, (Reuters): President Suharto, with a watchful eye on the turmoil in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia, urged Indonesians yesterday to make sure their hopes for change do not create instability.

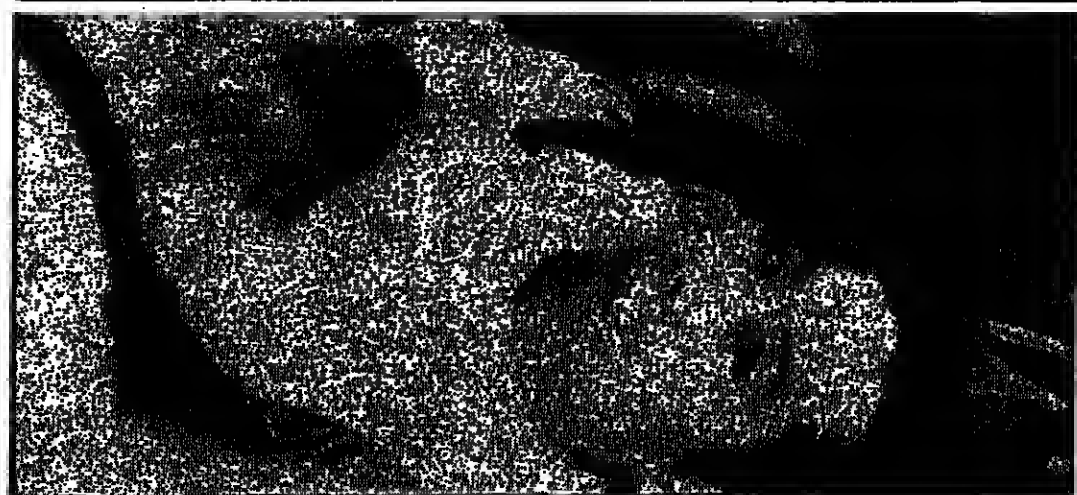
Suharto, in a year-end speech to the nation, said development in Indonesia would "create new aspirations and new forces" in society that must be channelled in a constructive way.

"They should not hamper our development nor weaken the nation's unity," he said.

In an apparent reference to changes in the East bloc, Suharto said: "We thank God, because several countries and several regions recently have fallen victim to turmoil...we are concerned about that."

During his 23-year rule, Suharto has presided over growing national unity in Southeast Asia's largest country and brought the economy from the brink of ruin.

The 68-year-old president, who came to power with the support of the military after an abortive coup attempt in 1965, has given no clear hint if he plans to stay on after his current five-year term ends in 1993 and there is no obvious successor.



Hijacker confined

Japanese prosecutors studying what action to take against the accused hijacker of a Chinese airliner moved him Sunday from a hospital into detention, a Foreign Ministry official said.

An official of the spinal injury centre in Fukuoka, southern Japan, said Zhang Zhenxin, 35, of China's Hebei province, was carried from the hospital on a stretcher. China has demanded the return of Zhang, who reportedly told Japanese police he hijacked the plane because he was fleeing China's crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, in which he said he had participated. The

plane flew to Japan after South Korea refused to let it land there.

Zhang suffered a broken pelvis when he was pushed out of the plane by a crew member after it landed Dec 16 at Fukuoka airport, 599 kilometres (557 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the ministry was informed that prosecutors had taken Zhang to a Justice Ministry facility in Fukuoka under a temporary detention warrant.

The official declined to discuss details.

Jiang sets tone

Social stability

BEIJING, Jan 1, (Reuters): China's Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin today laid down the leadership's theme for the new decade with an emphasis on social stability and national unity to overcome "temporary difficulties."

In a 2,000-word address at a New Year tea party for 350 politicians including representatives of minority non-communist parties, Jiang also promised "more socialist democracy and deeper political restructuring."

But he added that this must be conducted along socialist lines and under Communist Party leadership.

The New China News Agency (NCNA) reported that Jiang "pledged to strengthen democratic and legal construction so that the Communist Party and government can better reflect the aspirations and interests of the people."

Since Jiang's liberal predecessor Zhao Ziyang was ousted in June by hard-liners who accused him of fostering "bourgeois liberalism" — party shorthand for unacceptable Western ideas — the leadership has played down the idea of political reforms. But it has repeatedly stressed that economic reforms would continue.

Jiang's tentative and cautiously-worded return to the subject of political restructuring was overshadowed by his firm

and repeated calls for stability and strict adherence to Beijing's version of socialism.

Jiang said: "Social stability is a matter of prime importance in China. Only when society is stable can we concentrate our efforts on our various tasks."

The communist leaders, shaken by political unrest here in May and June, have made no secret of their alarm at the more recent retreat from communism in Eastern Europe. They have been eager to show that they will do all in their power to prevent any similar change in China.

Beijing used tanks and troops to crush mass protest demonstrations in June, with heavy loss of life, and Jiang's New Year speech made clear that no relaxation of the party's hard line on public order was in prospect.

Declared

"We will persist in following the socialist road," he declared. "China can tide over and is effectively tackling temporary difficulties under the leadership of the Communist Party."

The current generation of mostly elderly Chinese communist leaders has a lasting horror of disorder after the violence and upheavals of Mao Tse-tung's 1966-76 cultural revolution which was aimed in part against the party apparatus. They have been particularly alarmed by the execution last month of their long-time Romanian ally Nicolae Ceausescu.

China goes it alone

Gorbachev blamed for 'disorder'

BEIJING, Jan 1, (AP): Seven months after Deng Xiaoping told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that their decades-old ideological schism was healed, Chinese leaders are privately accusing Gorbachev's reforms of leading the socialist world astray.

Chinese authorities, in internal documents and closed meetings, reportedly blame Gorbachev and his "new thinking" diplomacy for unleashing the forces that have ended 40 years of communist dominance in Eastern Europe.

Diplomatic sources say China was being careful to avoid a public break with the Soviet Union and other fast-changing socialist states by stressing that China never interferes in the internal affairs of other nations.

A visit to China this week by Valentin Falin, head of the Soviet Communist Party's international department and the highest party official in China since May, went unnoticed in the official Chinese press until his final day meeting with Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin.

Reports on that meeting had Jiang lecturing Falin that socialist reform must "take the right route." The Soviet side had no comment on the talks, and Falin declined even to talk to the Soviet press.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Jin Guohua, asked about Gorbachev's "new thinking" diplomacy that encourages socialist countries to choose their own paths to political reform, said the concept "requires

careful and serious study."

But a Soviet source said it was "very clear the Chinese are now critical" of the idea. Sources say senior Chinese leaders are criticising Gorbachev for "confusing people" about socialism.

In recent days, the authorities have taken a different tack, drumming home the inevitability of communist rule in China and the correctness of their harsh suppression of political opposition.

Privately, however, Deng and other leaders feel betrayed by the revolutionary events set off by Gorbachev, and are deeply concerned that democratic unrest may spread to China, the source says.

This concern was heightened by the violent overthrow of the Nicolae Ceausescu government in Romania. Ceausescu, an old friend of China, tried and failed to use the Chinese method of silencing dissent with armed force.

Following Ceausescu's downfall, several illegal anti-government posters have appeared on Beijing campuses, among the first small signs of resistance since the military crackdown on the student-led Tiananmen movement in June.

One internal document circulating among high officials that lays down official position on Romania reportedly cites Gorbachev's policies as one factor behind the turmoil in Romania. It also speaks of the subversion of hostile foreign forces, a reference to the West.

HK rally calls for Chinese freedom

HONG KONG, Jan 1, (AP): About 10,000 people staged a noisy but peaceful demonstration today outside the Chinese Xinhua news agency office in Hong Kong in support of democracy in China.

The demonstrators shouted slogans and carried banners reading "we love China," "not communism" and "today Romania, tomorrow China."

They also voiced their support for the downfall of communist governments in Romania and other Eastern European nations.

The protesters rallied in downtown Hong Kong before marching the several miles (kilometres) to the Xinhua office.

The demonstration was staged by the Hong Kong alliance in support of the patriotic Movement in China, which Beijing has accused of trying to use this British colony as a base for subversion in China.

Police said there were no reports of any incidents during the two-hour protest.

Last night, the alliance staged a candlelight vigil at a downtown park in support of democracy in China and Romania.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader and winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize, urged China today to follow the reformist example set by East Europe or risk another Romania in his Himalayan homeland.

"Not heeding the aspirations of the people will only lead to bloodshed and violence," the Dalai Lama said in a New Year message issued through his office in New Delhi.

"Romania is a tragic example of a blind leadership which tried to resist change. The human yearning for freedom cannot be suppressed by brute military might," he said.

Thousands of people were killed in Romania last month in a successful uprising against the dictatorial rule of President Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed after a brief and secret trial.

Other communist governments in Eastern Europe have ceded exclusive power in the face of popular agitation. China, which bloodily suppressed its own pro-democracy student demonstrations in June, has said it will not follow suit.

The Dalai Lama, in a statement issued from his home in exile in the Indian Himalayas, complained that the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, was still under martial law imposed after anti-Chinese demonstrations last March.

More demonstrations in June were put down "with unprecedented violence and brutality," he said.

INTERNATIONAL

Aussie quake toll is now 12

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Jan 1. (UPI) — Rescue workers sifting the rubble for survivors following Australia's worst earthquake located the bodies of two more victims yesterday, and engineers said as many as 50 buildings may have to be demolished or undergo extensive repairs because of structural damage.

The discovery of the two bodies in the wreckage of the Newcastle Workers' Club brought the death toll from Thursday's quake to 12. Nine bodies have now been recovered from rubble of the collapsed social club, where patrons were playing bingo and slot machines when the quake jolted the region.

Police spokeswoman Jane Ellis said workers uncovered the last victim of the social club and located the two bodies yesterday morning. The bodies of the two men had not yet been identified. Nine victims, most of them elderly, have been identified so far, and all but one were area residents.

The earthquake, which measured 5.5 on the open-ended Richter scale, hammered a wide area of New South Wales state on Thursday, causing extensive damage to Newcastle, a steel city of one million people located 100 miles (160 km) north of Sydney. Authorities said about 170 people were injured in the quake, whose epicentre was located 3 miles (5 km) west of Newcastle.

Ellis said structural engineers estimated that 50 multi-story buildings, most of them in downtown Newcastle, will have to be demolished or undergo extensive repairs because of structural damage from the quake.

She said authorities had received official notification of damage to 4,000 different buildings since the quake. Because of the extensive damage, the inner city area was not expected to be reopened until at least mid-January.

After shocks struck the Newcastle area late Friday, causing terrified residents to run into the streets. Police said on Saturday there were no reports of damage or casualties following the after-shocks.

Seismologists said the expected after-shock, which lasted about three seconds, registered 1.5 on the open-ended Richter scale and was felt in the Newcastle suburbs of Adamstown and Charlestown at 8:13 pm local time.

Many people ran from their homes and elected to spend the night outdoors, authorities said. Seismologists said more after-shocks were expected in the area.

Meanwhile, thousands of residents visited relief centres set up in high schools and Salvation Army centres for emergency rations of food and temporary shelter, relief groups said Saturday.

● A strong earthquake struck yesterday near the north coast of Papua New Guinea, the US Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of possible casualties or damage.

The tremor was centered about 230 miles (370 km) northwest of Lae and east of Wewak, or 420 miles (675 km) northwest of port Moresby. USGS spokesman Don Finley said from suburban Washington.

Cigarette displays banned

SINGAPORE, Jan 1. (UPI) — A tough new anti-tobacco law prohibiting the display of pictures of cigarettes or their brand names on vehicles, telephone booths and counters went into effect today as part of Singapore's drive to become the first nation of non-smokers.

Tobacco companies kicked off New Year's day by respraying fleets of cars and vans to remove logos, trademarks and names while shopkeepers pulled down posters advertising an array of brands.

"I didn't even put them up," said Mohd Ali Bin Mohideen, a 60-year-old proprietor of a store plastered with cigarette advertisements. "The salesman did it."

The latest ban prohibits the display of pictures of tobacco products or their brand names on vehicles, signboard notices, posters, stickers, calendars, ashtrays, telephone booths and counters. It also bans the sales promotion and distribution of free samples of cigarettes and other tobacco products as well as their packaging with other goods.

Even the awarding of cigarettes as prizes in any lottery, game or competition has been stopped.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

2 teens charged: Two teens arrested for allegedly shooting and seriously wounding a man in a Queens parking lot have now been tied to a Christmas drive-by shooting that killed a pregnant woman and another youth, police said Saturday.

Eric Reed, 17, and Dwayne Faust, 16, both of Queens, were picked up after the second shooting early Friday and later charged, as adults, with murder in the Monday night slaying on the street outside the drug-plagued south Jamaica houses project, police said.

The Christmas shooting left an 18-year-old girl dead and mortally wounded a Jehovah's Witness who was eight months pregnant. The pregnant woman's husband was seriously wounded by the gunfire, police said. (UPI)

Environment favoured over economy: A newspaper poll indicates that Americans want to clean up the environment even if economic prosperity suffers.

Respondents to the Los Angeles Times' year-end poll published Monday also opposed legalising drugs by a 2-1 margin.

And a majority of those surveyed favoured deep defence spending cuts in light of changes in Eastern Europe, but there was little agreement on how to divide the "peace dividend." (AP)

Man charged harassing pilots: A man who said small planes buzzing over his desert home-land drowned out his portable radio has been charged with using a 4-foot- (1.2-metre-) square mirror to flash blinding sunlight into pilots' eyes.

Aleide Chaisson, 69, who lives in a trailer near Crystal Lake airport, was cited Friday for obstructing a flight path. Los Angeles county deputy district attorney Cynthia L. Ullig said.

"It could be very hazardous," Ms Ullig said. "They were being blinded as they landed and took off." (AP)

Oldest Texas cowboy dies: The oldest working cowboy in Texas died the way he wanted — stretched out in the prairie grass with his boots on, friends said.

Thomas Everett Blasingame, 91, was found lying on his back in a Texas panhandle field, his saddle horse standing nearby, by fellow cowhands at the Ja Cattle Co. ranch near Clarendon.

"If he had written it down on paper, he wouldn't have changed a word," about how he wanted to die, said Buster McLaury, ranch foreman.

Johnny Farrar, ranch business manager, said Blasingame was riding a young horse he was training just before he died. (UPI)

Stricken freighter sinks: A Greek freighter sank off Hawaii Sunday after coast guard rescuers and the crew abandoned the ship because rough weather had foiled their efforts to save the ship.

The 620-foot (189-m) Vulcan, registered in Kingston, St Vincent, went down at 1333 GMT Sunday about 750 miles (1,200 km) northeast of Oahu, coast guard navy officer said Hubbard said.

Three coast guard rescuers and half of the 28-member crew who had stayed aboard to try to save the ship abandoned the vessel Saturday night. "Everyone is now on the (coast guard) Cutter Sasafra, safe and sound," Hubbard said. (UPI)

Asia

Baby panda turns brown: A four-month-old panda called Bao Bei whose black fur has turned brown may spawn a new sub-species of brown giant pandas, according to zoological experts in China's ancient capital of Xian.

Born black and white like other examples of the rare animal found in the wild only in southwest China, the baby panda's black fur changed to brown 117 days after its birth on August 31 at Xian's zoo, the New China News Agency reported on Monday.

Its mother's fur was also brown and white, NCNA said.

It quoted the Xian experts as saying: "This proves that the baby panda has the genetic code of its mother. If this continues it will mean a new species of brown and white giant pandas instead of the usual black and white." (Reuters)

Malaysia to build: A \$74-million (200-million ringgit) telecommunications tower expected to be the world's third tallest structure will be built in Malaysia. Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat said Saturday.

Speaking to reporters after Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamed visited the government-owned radio-television building, Mohamed said the 420-metre (1,378-foot) Kuala Lumpur Tower, to be completed in five years, will house a telecommunications centre.

Mohamed said the government had agreed to construct the tower and was awaiting approval from the telecommunications company of Malaysia to take part in developing the project jointly with his ministry. (AP)

Legendary surgeon dies: Paul-Henri Grauvion, the honorary chief doctor of the French Army whose tireless work as the front-line surgeon in the disastrous Indo-China battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954 made him a national hero, died at the Val-de-Grace Military Hospital Sunday, city officials said.

Grauvion, 75, was head of the French Army's surgery section in Indo-China from 1946 to 1954. He was taken prisoner May 7, 1954, but was quickly released on orders of Ho Chi Minh.

During the battle of Dien Bien Phu that started March 13, 1954, Grauvion worked tirelessly in his underground front-line operating room, amputating limbs from hundreds of foreign legionnaires and other French servicemen under increasingly difficult conditions as the Viet Minh victory drew closer. (UPI)

Africa

Angolan peace plan: Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos announced a new peace plan to end a 14-year civil war in the country, offering free elections within five years but demanding recognition of his Marxist government.

In his new year message in the Angolan capital of Luanda, Dos Santos outlined a new 8-point peace plan, including proposals for a cease-fire with rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as Unita, Portuguese media reported.

The first two points of Dos Santos' peace plan demand that Unita recognise the sovereignty of Angola and the legitimacy of his Marxist MPLA government.

Mitterrand calls for confederation of Europe

PARIS, Jan 1. (Reuters) — The pace of change in 1989 means that the new decade may see the birth of a confederation of all European nations, French President Francois Mitterrand said yesterday in a New Year address.

But the countries of East Europe must achieve full democracy first, he said in a television broadcast on the eve of the new decade.

"I expect to see the birth in the 90s of a European confederation in the true sense of the term, associating all the states of our

continent in a common and permanent organisation of exchanges, peace and security.

"Needless to say that will only be possible after the creation in the Eastern countries of multi-party democracy, free elections, a representative system and freedom of information."

"Given the speed at which things are moving we are perhaps not so far away," Mitterrand said at the end of a year which has witnessed dramatic political change in every East European country except Albania.

Hotel blown up

A two-star hotel closed for the winter blew up in a spectacular explosion that police investigators believe to be the work of organised crime. No one reported any injuries.

Police said bombers used bottles of gas and 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of unidentified explosives to level the U Phipps Hotel Saturday night in the town of Sagona on Corsica's western coast.

The explosion lit up the night sky, smashed foundations of the 22-room, three-story hotel and hurled rubble from the walls across the street, police said. No injuries were reported, they added.

The blast was the latest in a series of attacks related to the hotel. Jean Renouard, son of the present manager, was shot to death Aug 7. The previous manager, Jean Dupuis, was killed similarly in 1985.

UN drive

Climb atop

LONDON, Jan 1. (UPI) — Anyone on Earth with a pair of hiking boots was challenged today to "Climb for the world" up the mountain of his choice by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

On Sept 18, declared the International Day of Peace by the United Nations, climbers from all 159 countries in the world body are invited to hold "summit" meetings atop their local mountains in a unique display of international co-operation.

"Climb for the world's" centrepiece will be a multiple ascent of Switzerland's most formidable Alpine peak, the Eiger, by five teams of two climbers from each continent on Earth.

Dos Santos laid down the establishment of a national army, incorporating both government and Unita forces, as a condition for negotiations. (UPI)

Afrikaner novelist dies: Afrikaner novelist Etienne Le Roux, leader of rebel intellectuals among the first to criticise their country's white establishment, has died of lung cancer at age 67, a hospital said Sunday. Le Roux, an attorney and a farmer before he turned to writing, died at a university hospital in the central city of Bloemfontein.

In the 1960s, he was foremost among "rebel" Afrikaner writers who challenged the conservative foundations of Afrikaner culture and attacked the white domination of the black majority.

His work, rich in symbolism and allegory, was banned here for years.

Sweeping to clear image

Members of the People's Liberation Army sweep a railway station in the southern city of Guangzhou Dec 30. The army conducts 'help the people' campaign across China to better their image after the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in June. (Reuters wire-photo)

Latin America

De Mello defeats Da Silva: The government Saturday formally declared Fernando Collor de Mello the winner of Brazil's first free presidential election in 29 years.

Collor de Mello, 40, of the rightist National Reconstruction Party, narrowly defeated socialist Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva, 49 per cent to 44 per cent. The election was held Dec 17.

"I am sure God will give me the strength to govern this country with open arms, together with the judiciary and the congress, whose participation is indispensable," said Collor de Mello after receiving a presidential diploma from the supreme electoral court during a morning ceremony.

Collor de Mello had 55,089,998 votes after 100 per cent of the 70.26 million ballots cast were tallied, supreme electoral court President Jose Francisco Rezak said.

Da Silva, of the radical left Workers Party, received 31,076,364 votes. (AP)

Gorbachev is bitter, but predicts peaceful 1990s

Cold war is ending, socialism has not failed

MOSCOW, Jan 1. (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev told his people yesterday he is bitter over the past year of strikes, ethnic violence and economic strains, but predicted the 1990s could be the most fruitful period in human civilisation.

Speaking in his annual New Year's television address to the nation, Gorbachev also made it clear that he disagrees with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's year-end conclusion that socialism has failed.

"The necessity to combine socialism with democracy has again been vigorously reaffirmed in the dramatic events that occurred in Berlin, Sofia, Prague and Bucharest," Gorbachev said.

Communists in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Poland have had to give up their absolute power in 1989, and communists in Bulgaria are attempting to satisfy public protests with internal reforms.

Gorbachev wished Eastern Europeans success in their revolutionary renewal and promised Soviet solidarity.

"The post-war division of the continent recedes into the past," he said. The cold war is ending, and people now speak of a "common European home" as a realistic prospect instead of fantasy, he said, repeating his own previous themes.

The 1990s bid fair to become the most fruitful period in the history of civilisation "if people concentrate on 'solidarity, co-operation and accord,'" he said.

Gorbachev was clearly appealing for unity not only internationally but domestically as well. In 1989, the Soviet Union was riven by calls for secession, and by ethnic strife that killed hundreds of people. His New Year's wish was that 1990 pass "under the watchword of mutual understanding and consolidation."

The past year has been the most difficult of his tenure, he said. "But no matter how difficult 1989 was, we are seeing it off not only with a sense of bitterness, but also as a year in which much indispensable work was accomplished," he said.

The year brought the Soviet Union's first "genuinely free elections," its first Congress, parliamentary experience and "a rapid rise in the democratic culture of the people," Gorbachev said.

Last spring's elections to the Congress of People's deputies were the first multi-candidate elections in Soviet history, and produced true competition in many districts. However, in some areas, communist bureaucrats kept an iron grip on the electoral process.

Sdill, Gorbachev emphasised, grain was sown in 1989. "It is not easy for grain to grow in our soil," he said, apparently referring, obligingly, to democracy.

"But if they survive and strike root — and we must see they do — they will yield rich fruit for the entire country and every person."

The Soviet leader also noted important achievements of 1989, including unprecedented multi-candidate parliamentary elections, the recasting of the Supreme Soviet as a permanently sitting legislature, and the debut sessions of the new Congress of People's deputies.

"We have learned much over the past year," Gorbachev said. "We had to reassess much, and we see many things quite differently now than we did a year ago. We now clearly visualise the goal that we are striving to attain — a humane, democratic socialism, a society of freedom and social justice."

Evoking President Bush's 1988 election campaign plea for a "gentler, kinder" nation, Gorbachev told his people: "Reason, kindness, patience and tolerance — the main human traits that I am certain, mark every person — are vitally essential to us."

Pravda credited Gorbachev for initiating the wave of change sweeping virtually the entire East bloc.

Westminster college would like Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss easing East-West tensions at the forum from which Winston Churchill warred of an "iron curtain" nearly half a century ago.

"We're hoping that a world figure who has played such a major role in East-West politics would see the importance of returning to the place where the cold war was first defined," college President Harvey Saunders said. "Obviously, Gorbachev would be the ideal."

Gorbachev was named "man of the year" for 1989 on Saturday in a poll conducted for the French newspaper Le Figaro, the newspaper's polling organisation announced.

In all, 65 per cent of those polled by the Sofres market research organisation named the Soviet leader as their man of the year.



Gorbachev shown on TV during his address to the Soviet public on New Year's Eve. (Reuters wirephoto)

Join me in peace efforts: Bush

WASHINGTON, Jan 1. (Reuters) — President George Bush, in a television message to the Soviet Union broadcast New Year's day, called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to join him in redoubling efforts for world peace.

He called Gorbachev a "good partner in peace," in the taped message to be broadcast in the Soviet Union.

Bush said he and his wife, and the American people, offered the Soviet people "our warmest greetings."

He said that as the last decade of the 20th century opens and the world looks back on nine decades of war, strife and suspicion, "let us also look forward to a new century, and a new millennium, of peace, freedom and prosperity."

Bush said the progress of the past gave him confidence the two nations were heading in the right direction.

But he added that "given the war-torn history of this century, we should redouble our efforts to forge a new century of peace and freedom."

He said the challenges were daunting, but the two nations had produced Abraham Lincoln, Leo Tolstoy, Martin Luther King and Andrei Sakharov, and "with goodwill and determination on both sides, I am confident our two peoples will be equal to the task."

Bush said he and Gorbachev, in their Malta meeting in December, pledged to diminish the threat of nuclear war, to work to cut conventional arms, to end regional conflicts and alleviate human suffering.

He said he wanted to assure the Soviet people, as he had assured Gorbachev, that the United States sought no advantage from the breakup of communism in Eastern Europe.

Bush added he also told Gorbachev he backed Soviet economic reforms and would work with him to reduce barriers to trade and investment and the free movement of goods and ideas to help improve the life of every Soviet citizen.

He said it was the American belief that lasting peace and prosperity came from a respect for human rights and the sharing of democratic values.

Bush said: "Your own Tolstoy said that if our hearts are empty, no law or political reform can fill them."

He said, "these values are not exclusively American or Western. They are not the possession of any people or any domain. They belong to all men and women, through all time, and in all places. They are the inalienable rights of man."

He closed his message saying: "Thank you, God bless you, and have a very happy New Year."

No freedom for Baltics

WASHINGTON, Jan 1. (Reuters) — Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said yesterday that Moscow's doctrine of letting nations chart their own futures stopped at the Soviet border and that the Baltic states were to remain part of the Soviet Union.

But Gerasimov, interviewed on US television, said force would not be used to put down independence movements.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is to visit Lithuania early this year to try to persuade the rising independence movement there to remain loyal to the Soviet Union.

Independence movements are also active in Latvia and Estonia. The three were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

Gerasimov said the Soviet Union wanted to persuade the Baltic states that the changes being made in Moscow would give them independence they did not have in the past.

He said that under the reformed Soviet system, "they will have real economic independence and a lot of political independence, but still it will be the union."

Gerasimov said they could be persuaded to stay by telling them of the economic problems they would face by going it alone.

"They cannot really be on their own in economic terms," he said.

He said if the Baltic leaders can't be persuaded, "we'll see what's going to happen. But, of course, we are not going to use force. No, that's excluded."

Gerasimov took issue with a statement by President George Bush that reunified Germany had to remain a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

He said a reunified Germany should be part of a broader European community and that Nato and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact should be disbanded or at least be reduced in importance.

Protesters denouncing shortages of alcohol for the New Year holiday blocked traffic and demanded the resignation of local leaders in a "wine revolt" in the city of Sverdlovsk, a Moscow daily reported yesterday.

Soviets believe

Capitalism better

TOKYO, Jan 1. (UPI) — A major Japanese newspaper reported today that a majority of Soviets polled recently felt capitalism was superior to socialism and reform efforts of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Mainichi newspaper, Japan's third largest daily, said it carried out a telephone survey simultaneously in the Soviet Union, the United States and lives of citizens in each country.

Some of the most revealing results came from the Soviet survey, which sampled the opinions of 2,970 people over 18 years of age from 15 republics, 17 ethnic groups, including both communist and non-party members.

It showed that 51 per cent of Soviets believe that capitalism is a better system compared with 92 per cent satisfaction in the United States and 73 per cent in Japan.

Berlin party goes sour

EAST BERLIN, Jan. 1. (Reuters): Berlin's wild New Year celebration at the Berlin Wall turned sour when a giant video screen collapsed onto a crowd early this morning, injuring more than 100 people.

Police also said they found a 24-year-old West German dead along East Berlin's majestic boulevard Unter Den Linden, but his death did not appear to be connected with the collapse.

A total of 300 people were injured, 80 of them taken to hospitals in East and West Berlin with cuts, broken bones and head wounds, West Berlin police said. It was a sad end to the party of a lifetime, with East Germans clambering on the border wall that hemmed them in until just seven weeks ago, drinking, shouting and kissing their fellow Germans from the West.

Toast

Earlier police statements reported by the East German media suggested another man had died in a huge crowd of people surging forward to toast the peaceful revolution in East Germany and the opening of its borders.

But the police later said they could confirm only one death. At the stroke of midnight champagne and fireworks rained down on the 700,000-strong crowd thronging the Brandenburg Gate, the 200-year-old symbol of German unity that was sealed to the public for 28 years until only 10 days ago.

Some, defying police orders, managed to climb to the top of the imposing gate up scaffolding supporting the video screen. Just after 1.30 am the scaffolding gave way.

Red Cross workers struggling through the crush and the carpet of broken glass found scores of injured.

Shortly before dawn, police had found a young West Berliner dead outside the Soviet embassy, 200 metres (yards) away. He was not named, nor did police give a cause of death.

East German guards immediately closed border crossings at the gate, bringing an abrupt halt to the celebrations.

In Hamburg, West Germany, 10 policemen were seriously injured and a patrol car was destroyed when masked anarchists rioted during a New Year march, police said.

Just before midnight about 1,000 people, many of them masked members of an anarchist group called Autonomes, pelted police with stones and shot firework rockets at them after they had been ordered to remove their masks.

More disguised rioters ambushed police who answered a fake emergency call in the city's port area.

The rioters stole a sub-machine-gun and ammunition from the patrol car, which they pushed over and set on fire. The fighting was eventually broken up when 100 police arrived and threw tear gas into the crowd.

Two Autonomes were arrested, police said.

As Berlin revellers nursed their hangovers later this morning, street cleaners set to work clearing a path through ankle-deep debris for a New Year's day fun-run spanning both sides of the city in which some 2,000 Berliners took part.

A new shift of border guards arrived on duty at dawn to find that their once feared watchtowers had been broken into and that the eastern side of the wall was daubed with graffiti.

Souvenir

The holes, made by souvenir hunters armed with hammers, seemed to support a prediction made by West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper last night that the wall could be torn down within weeks.

"If East Germany does not tear it down, everyone in the West, the 'wall woodpeckers', will take it away bit by bit," he told a television interviewer standing on top of the wall.

Around him some revellers sobbed with joy and embraced complete strangers.

Others, staring at the packed square around the gate and the explosion of colour and light above its imposing arches, rubbed their eyes to make sure it was really happening.

"Look at this — champagne, fireworks, and the Brandenburg Gate I still can't quite believe it," said Detlev Kriemer from Dortmund in West Germany.

Even the East German border guards, who only a few weeks ago stood down-faced in their watch towers and shot at anybody trying to cross to the West, had been in a mood to celebrate.



Wildest night at the wall

CHAMPAGNE and fireworks rained down on tens of thousands of Germans reveling in the wildest, most ecstatic New Year's party of their lives at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate today.

Breaking every imaginable taboo, East Berliners clambered on to the wall that hemmed them in until just seven weeks ago, drinking, shouting and kissing fellow Germans from the West.

Some revellers sobbed with joy and embraced complete strangers to wish them a happy New Year.

Others, staring at the packed square around the Brandenburg Gate and the

explosion of colour and light (left) above its imposing arches, rubbed their eyes to make sure it was really happening.

On the stroke of midnight the whole

area was shrouded in smoke from the hundreds of firecrackers, rockets and catherine wheels that whizzed and burst into the air.

"Wall woodpeckers" were taking

away the wall bit by bit. Armed with hammers they chipped away blocks and got them sealed by East German border guards (right and centre) for authenticity. (Reuters wirephoto)

Matisse painting stolen

Eight works by French master Henri Matisse worth 75 million francs were stolen from the family home on the Riviera, police said on Monday.

The works include the celebrated oil paintings "View over Collioure port," "Women in Brittany" and "Devil's Lake," investigators with the Nice police said.

Two other oil paintings, a linoleum engraving and two pencil sketches were also stolen. Police did not immediately reveal the titles of these works or estimate a value of the individual pieces.

One of the century's most-prized artists, Matisse lived in the plush apartment in the hills overlooking the Mediterranean for many years. He died in 1954.

The apartment has been unoccupied for most of the past 20 years.

The painter's daughter-in-law, Maria Matisse, discovered the theft on Friday on her first visit to the residence since November.

James, Elizabeth most popular: James and Elizabeth, the names of British kings and queens, were the most popular names for babies born in 1989, according to the social editor of the Times of London newspaper.

Of the 2,780 boys whose births were announced in the lefty newspaper last year, 392 had James as one of their names, 120 ahead of the runner-up, William, said social editor Helen Beard.

Of the 2,645 birth announcements for girls, 254 had Elizabeth among their names, 106 ahead of the second most popular choice, Charlotte, she said.

Of the first names chosen, James was also the most popular for boys, as it has been every year since 1964. Ms. Beard wrote in her annual letter to the editor outlining parents' selections. James was followed by Thomas, William, Alexander, Edward, Charles, Oliver, George, Robert and Henry. (AP)

Risk of leukaemia: Chlorine added to drinking water may increase the risk of children contracting leukaemia, according to a leading British newspaper on Sunday.

The Observer newspaper said a new research by Dr Simon Raybould, a British professor at Newcastle University, northern England, has analysed leukaemia rates among children under 15 who were drinking water supplied by some water companies in the UK.

He found that those with low levels of chlorine were less likely to develop acute lymphatic leukaemia. (KUNA)

Augusto Del Noce dead: Noted philosopher Augusto Del Noce, 79, has died of a heart disorder, Italian newspapers reported on Sunday.

Del Noce was a prominent exponent of Roman Catholic thought and wrote numerous books on religious faith in a modern society. He died late Saturday.

Del Noce was born in Pistoia in 1910 and graduated from the University of Torino in 1932. He went on to teach political philosophy and history of political thought at the universities of Trieste and Rome.

In 1984, he was elected to the Italian Senate as a member of the dominant Christian Democrat Party.

His best known book was "The Problem of Atheism," published in 1964. (AP)

Briton with amnesia: A Briton who says he cannot remember his name or where he comes from has been discovered wandering about northern France, police said on Sunday.

A passerby found the man, dressed in corduroy trousers, a beige sweater and a checked parka, soaking wet on the banks of the Somme river in the centre of Abbeville, 163 kilometres (101 miles) north of Paris.

The man was taken to a hospital but could not remember his name or reasons for being in France, police said. He carried no papers and identified himself first as Richard Davis, then Richard Jackson and could not provide his home town. (AP)

Warmest year: Britain has basked in the warmest year since records began 330 years ago, according to figures published on Sunday.

The record of temperature for central England, the oldest and most reliable national weather guide, shows that up to Dec 28 the mean temperature for 1989 was 10.6 C, 1.1 C above average.

The official figure, taking into account temperatures up to Dec 31, was revealed by the Sunday Times newspaper.

It pointed out that scientists are expected to use the figures to re-open the argument over whether the greenhouse effect has already started. (KUNA)

Labour ahead of Tories: Britain's main opposition Labour Party enters the 1990s with a seven-point lead over the ruling Conservatives, according to an opinion poll in the Sunday Times.

It shows a considerable reduction in their lead since the equivalent poll of just over a month ago and is in line with the findings of most other polls in the last few weeks.

The minority parties, led by the Liberal Democrats on six per cent, all remain way out of the running.

The figures are: Labour 46 per cent, Conservatives 39 per cent, Liberal Democrats six per cent, Greens four per cent, SDP three per cent and others two per cent.

Meanwhile, the latest poll suggests that 61 per cent of people believe Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has done a bad job in protecting the natural environment, while only 27 per cent think she has done a good job. (KUNA)

Romania bans Securitate

Death penalty abolished: private property restored

BUCHAREST, Jan. 1. (AP): Romanians celebrated New Year's Day free of the oppressive presence of the Securitate after formal abolition of the special police force that served the late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romanian radio reported no overnight incidents of sniper fire or clashes between the army and die-hard Securitate units, which suggested a slow return to normality after two weeks of unrest that is believed to have claimed thousands of lives.

Hundreds of Securitate agents were still believed armed and at large today, despite orders last week by the provisional government to surrender.

Interim President Ion Iliescu formally announced the abolition of Securitate late yesterday in a New Year's address, the East German news agency ADN reported from Bucharest.

Announcement of Securitate's dismantling after 41 years was preceded by the detention of the agency's former head, Iulian Vlad, along with three ranking members of the ministry controlling the police, the Romanian state news agency Agerpres reported. It did not specify what charges, if any, the four face.

Iliescu also said that his interim government was planning to introduce the five-day work week, reducing work days by one. He reiterated the leadership's commitment to the introduction of multi-party democracy after more than four decades of communist rule, including 24 years under Ceausescu.

Shortly before Iliescu spoke in a national radio and television broadcast, Deputy Foreign Minister Corneliu Bogdan told reporters that "the Communist Party is dead," in Romania.

At least six new political parties "have emerged since Ceausescu was overthrown Dec 22 by a nation outraged over the massacre by security forces of hundreds of people in the western city of Timisoara participating in an anti-Ceausescu protest. The army had joined the people in toppling Ceausescu. He and his wife Elena were summarily tried and executed Christmas Day, convicted of "genocide" and other grave crimes.

Iliescu is a former Communist Party secretary who fell out of favour with Ceausescu for speaking his mind but has the political experience that dissident intellectuals and other former opposition figures lack.

He also announced: ■ Abolition of the death penalty, saying the "two dictators were the last who deserved this fate."

■ Re-establishment of private property, with farmers again permitted to own 6,000 square metres (about 1.2 acres) of land surrounding their houses. Additional land could be leased, and its yield again sold on the private market, he said, unlike in the past, where the state was formally the only buyer.

■ A moratorium on opulent and wasteful construction projects undertaken by Ceausescu that consumed billions of dollars despite widespread privation at home. Among objects affected by the suspension is the nearly finished Palace of the Republic and the surrounding complex of apartments reserved for ranking Ceausescus followers.

Iliescu also made public agricultural production figures according to which the year's total cereal production amounted to 16.9 million tons, instead of the claimed 60 million tons. Other totals also were well below claimed amounts.

To pay off the country's foreign debt, Ceausescu had in recent years exported Romania's best agricultural products while forcing rationing upon his people. The new government is now opening warehouses and making those items available to the people, as it also increases energy allotments to permit warmer homes.

Bogdan, his country's US ambassador for more than a decade before falling into disfavour in the early 1980s, discounted the danger of communists again assuming undisputed control of the country.

He said members still formally in the party were in the minority in the provisional government, and even those did not consider themselves Communist Party members after the oppressive Ceausescu era.

"I was one of them," he said of the communists. "I will pay for it," he added.



Ceausescus took a hostage: Ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife fled Romania, held a pistol to the terrified face of three and ordered: "If you want to stay alive, drive."

According to an account of the Ceausescus' December 22 flight in the French daily Liberation on Saturday, the leader and his wife abandoned a helicopter in the countryside.

The couple, travelling in a car with two members of the dreaded Securitate, then kidnapped Nicolae Petrisor in a village near Irgoviste, a city 70 kms (44 miles) from Bucharest.

Petrisor, a father of three, was washing his car in the street around 2 pm when a vehicle screeched to a stop and a man jumped out, Liberation said. Waving a gun, he hustled Petrisor into his own car and ordered him to drive off.

A few minutes later, after turning a corner, he was told to stop to let the passengers from the other car in.

Nicolae Ceausescu settled next to the terrified driver, his wife scrambled into the back. "If you want to stay alive, drive," Petrisor quoted her as saying, adding that she repeatedly thrust what he believed was a gun at his neck. (Reuters)

Elena left school at 10: A school report published yesterday shows that the ruthless wife of the ousted Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu left school aged 10 despite her pretensions as an intellectual.

Elena Ceausescu was shot alongside her husband by an army firing squad on December 25 after a popular revolution against their brutal rule.

A photocopy of the 1928 school report signed by her parents was published yesterday in the Romania Libra newspaper.

"These were the first steps of the wonderchild of world science and, it seems, the last," the daily said in a sarcastic commentary.

Elena, awarded a doctorate in chemistry by Bucharest University despite her shortcomings, prided herself on being an intellectual, even maintaining the fantasy while on trial for genocide and other crimes before being shot on Christmas Day.

Honorary President of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, she was showered with honorary degrees during her visits abroad and numerous hooks on science were published in her name. (Reuters)

Macabre dilemma: Romania's revolutionary leaders enter the New Year faced with a macabre dilemma — what to do with the bodies of Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena.

The dictator and his wife were executed by firing squad on Christmas Day after 24 years of ruthless rule.

Sources in the governing National Salvation Front said yesterday that Romanians, driven to despair by Ceausescu's policies, did not want his remains buried in Romanian soil.

"The people's wish has to be respected," one source said.

"It is certain they will not be buried in our land."

The bodies have been embalmed until a decision is reached. The sources left open the possibility they might be disposed of in the Black Sea. (Reuters)

A soldier sits in a guard hut at Bucharest airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

A soldier flashed the victory sign.

An elderly woman begs in Bucharest.

East Europe rejoices in new-found freedom

New Year mood ranges from sombre to ecstatic: Prague plans amnesty

VIENNA, Jan. 1. (Reuters): The mood among East Europeans ranged from sombre to ecstatic today as they welcomed a new decade of freedom with a mixture of hope and trepidation.

In the celebrations ended, East bloc countries faced the daunting task of rebuilding their economies and meeting popular expectations that planned political reforms, including free elections, will lay their authoritarian past to rest.

For the first time since the communist takeover after World War Two, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary and Romania plan multi-party elections in the first half of the year. Poland held free elections last year.

But it was still too early for celebration in Romania, where she peaceful revolution that has swept Eastern Europe drew its first blood just before Christmas. The people of Bucharest stayed at home, mourning their dead and mindful of official warnings that secret police loyal to executed leader Nicolae Ceausescu could still be at large.

In a midnight address, new President Ion Iliescu pledged the country's provisional leadership would promote democracy and strive for pluralism in elections scheduled for April.

In Czechoslovakia, Prague's Wenceslas Square, scene of mass anti-government demonstrations only a month ago, was full of people celebrating the New Year and the new democratic order in their country.

President Vaclav Havel, a former dissident elected last Friday just seven months after he was released from jail, has promised to lead the country into free elections by June.

Havel, pledged today to lift the country from a mire of political hypocrisy and ensure it would never again be subservient to another power.

He also said he would introduce "a relatively extensive amnesty," details of which were expected to be announced later today.

Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany and

most recently Romania, have all abolished the leading role of the Communist Party.

A similar move is expected later this month in Bulgaria, where a delay in bringing the motion before Parliament has damaged the credibility of communist leader Petar Mladenov.

Mladenov, who faces the delicate task of ushering in Soviet-style reforms whilst doing his best to keep hold of power, said in his New Year message the country was committed to building a "democratic civil society."

"We have started a revolution which we must carry on to its successful completion," he added.

The only country in Eastern Europe that has resisted the reforms sweeping the rest of the region is Albania, where a statue of Stalin still overlooks the main boulevard in the capital Tirana, and which regards itself as the last outpost of Marxist-Leninist purity.

Yugoslavia's leading dissident Milovan Djilas said yesterday that upheavals in Eastern Europe marked the beginning of the end of communism in the Soviet Union

and its former satellite states.

"This is the end of Marxist-Leninist utopia," Djilas said in an interview.

Once the closest lieutenant of the late Yugoslav communist leader Josip Broz Tito, Djilas was sacked for his liberal views in 1954.

"What has happened in Eastern Europe is not only a revolution, but something that will change the course of history everywhere and the world must adjust to it," Djilas said.

"Revolution is devilish, no one knows where it leads, but in eastern Europe we have witnessed a democratic revolution unseen in history."

He said the deposed communist leaderships in eastern Europe would inevitably be replaced with western type democracies, slightly varying from one country to another.

"The same is inevitable in the Soviet Union, which is likely to split along ethnic lines in the long run," Djilas said.

Gulf production, price may go up, predicts Al Hamad

Next decade will witness sharp increase in oil demand

THE 1990's decade will witness heightened demand for oil resulting in an increase in the supply and price of GCC oil which is estimated to range in production to about 12.5 bpd and sold at a price of \$28-32 per barrel, a senior Kuwaiti official said.

Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chairman and director general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) speaking at a lecture delivered within the framework of the cultural season of the Gulf and Arab Peninsula Studies Centre on the theme "Future Vision for GCC economies during 1990s" said: "The GCC countries still depend mainly on oil as the major source of national revenue."

The official said that the main

problem of the GCC countries rests on how to go beyond the unilateral economy circle and recommend that the GCC countries should create an economic pattern based on integrating all economic sectors.

Hamad pointed out that the non-oil sectors contribution was increasing according to 1960-1988 statistics. These indicate that there is a relation between oil revenues and the contribution of the non-oil countries. The effect of the oil sector on the other sector can be perceived through the increase in the state expenditure.

The official called for the private sector to play its role towards diversifying national income resources and said

that this sector could realise self-sufficiency away from its dependency on oil.

He disclosed that relevant data confirm that the GCC countries will support investment in non-oil related industries to minimise imports.

Meanwhile, Hamad clarified that there are three major factors which constitute the backbone of the industrialisation process in the GCC countries. The first relates to the strategic industry which is represented by oil and its derivatives, the second deals with oil and gas such as steel, aluminium, copper and cement industry and the third deals with light industries represented by foodstuffs, textiles, medical industries and assembly industries.

He said that the first oil era had witnessed a significant growth in the Gross National Product (GNP) registering an increase from \$14.2 billion in 1972 to about \$67.3 billion in 1975 and peaked by the end of 1982 when the GNP of the member states recorded about \$242.3 billion.

However, during the second oil era, the GNP witnessed a significant retreat and in 1988 revenues amounted to \$129.4 billion with a loss of about 47 per cent compared to the 1981's income.

The GCC countries lost from 1982-1989 about \$858 billion—which equals three fold of the member states current outflows estimated at \$297 billion according to 1987 statistics, the official

said.

He added that Saudi Arabia, accounting for the lion's share—estimated at 54 per cent of the GCC total GNP in 1988 compared to 50 per cent in 1975 and 68 per cent in 1981, while UAE was second with 18 per cent in 1988 compared to 14.8 per cent in 1975 and 13.6 per cent in 1981. Kuwait occupies third place with 15 per cent in 1988 compared to 18 per cent in 1975. Shares of Bahrain, Oman and Qatar have increased from 1.6 per cent, 3.1 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively in 1975 to 2.8 per cent, 5.9 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively in 1988.

Hamad said that the Arab Gulf countries development is connected with the discovery of oil which played

its significant role after 1973 following the correction of oil prices in international markets. He added: "The GCC countries then recorded incomes which had not been realised even by developed countries' economies."

Income soared from \$8 billion in 1972 to \$149.2 billion in 1980 (i.e. in less than one decade with a growth rate of about 44 per cent per annum. This growth has also been reflected directly on the other non-oil sectors.

This sustained growth provided the leverage for an increase in individual incomes from \$1,300 in 1972 to about \$16,400 in 1985. Individual income of the UAE citizen in 1980 averaged \$28,900 per capita.

security in the future, the official said that the problems of this industry are directly related to the scarcity of water.

In this connection, he disclosed that the water desalination process in the GCC countries cost about \$1.8 billion per annum. The desalination costs to cover agricultural purposes will cost about \$3.5 billion, the official said.

Commenting on the general expenditure in the GCC countries, the official said that all these countries are suffering from deficit in their budget as of 1984. This is reflected on the drop in oil revenues. These deficits have been gradually increased and the GCC countries are reluctant to cover this deficit from cash flows invested abroad.

Pedlars deny theft charges

PEDLARS are usually seen carrying huge missives or a cloth bundle filled with goods which include fabrics, ready-made garments and cosmetics and knocking on doors of residential premises in a bid to "hawk" their wares.

Due to the very nature of their "house calls," they are often accused of causing many house thefts by striking deals with housemaids, particularly during the morning period when house owners are away at their jobs.

A local daily raised this issue with a number of pedlars to highlight their opinions towards these accusations.

One of the pedlars said that he had been going around houses selling goods for the last more than 20 years and added that sales used to be much better in the past.

He added that most pedlars entirely depend on these sales to earn their livelihood and they operated on the principle of "low profit with high turnover."

He said that all through his twenty-year career, he had not heard of any complaints, rather, customers welcomed them as their prices were cheaper than the souk and additionally, customers had the goods brought to them at their door-steps.

He added that due to the nature of their profession, he does not work throughout the year—especially during the period of June, July and August. He said that many of his customers are loyal and refuse to shop for anything, but essentials.

Abdul Karara, also working as a pedlar for the past 20 years said that he prefers selling goods during the afternoon, because most customers are home at that time of the day and the weather is cooler particularly during hot summer days.

He said that he prefers to shout out his wares, rather than ring door bells which causes inconvenience and annoys customers. He added that he works on a small margin (100 fils per item sold) and is willing to take back any defective goods.

Karara indicated that he does not have any special area, but goes around all areas of Kuwait. He stressed that trust between him and buyers is the main bond in this job.

Saleem Omar told that there were about 300 pedlars working in this field and work in a unified manner. They purchase their goods at wholesale prices from Al Safat Souk and customers are generally of the middle-income group.

All pedlars interviewed, vehemently denied that they were thieves or dealt with maids to steal from the homes they visit.

Outdated food

INSPECTORS assigned to Area Four in Farwaniya governorate, Kheitan Centre, apprehended a large quantity of outdated food stuffs stored in Rai area.

Municipality inspectors had earlier stumbled on sparse quantities of foodstuffs invalid for human consumption and managed to trace the source through intensive investigation to the distributor's storehouse in Rai.

Inspection of the storehouse revealed large quantities of invalid stuff commonly known as za'tar, coffee and a variety of different types of nuts and spices.

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Defence officers

A delegation grouping officers from the Ministry of Defence headed by Major Mohammed Ali Al Farsi recently paid a visit to the Technology Studies College. The delegation was received at the college by Dr Saif Al-Sayid Shamsuddin who discussed the fields of co-operation and co-ordination between the college and the Ministry of Defence.

The delegation toured around the different departments of the college including the laboratories of Chemical Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Electronic Engineering Technology and Civil Engineering Laboratories. Picture above shows the officers pictured with Dr Shamsuddin.

Move to speed up transplants

Surgeon calls for closer co-ordination

DR. George Mansour Abouna, a transplant and kidney surgeon, cited law No 44 issued by the Ministry of Public Health which provided for using organs of people killed in accidents for transplants with the prior consent of the family.

He called for the establishment of a special committee at each hospital for co-ordinating the work involved in transplant operations. He said that the proposed committee should consist of a medical team headed by the head of the intensive care unit or the head anaesthetist, a surgeon, representative of the nursing staff, social researcher and a representative of the public relation department.

The committee will function as a link between the hospital and the Hamed Al Issa Transplant Centre and report all deaths caused by cerebral inertia and others in a timely manner.

He stressed the need for using computers at the transplants centre where all deaths could be recorded,

along with names of patients, donors and other relevant particulars needed for undertaking transplants.

He pointed out that it will be possible to meet the need for organs in Kuwait if only 20 per cent of the total people killed on an annual basis could be utilised and stressed the need to implement the decision issued by the MPH. He added that despite the annual 400 cases of deaths in Kuwait, caused by traffic accidents, a lack of co-ordination activities prevented the supply of organs of these victims.

He told that currently there are 260 patients waiting organs to be donated while undergoing regular dialysis which is a costly operation.

He reaffirmed the success of experiments at transplanting liver and pancreas in Kuwait, adding that the recent pancreas transplant operation performed in Kuwait was the first of its kind in the Middle East.

Priority to public utilities in Ahmadi

ALI Fahed Al Adwani, chairman, Ahmadi Governorate Council said that the council is giving priority to increasing the number of jobs in the public utilities, opening of Manqaf Clinic, paving streets and organising the operations at the vegetables, fruits and fish market in Fahad.

Interviewed by a local daily, he stated that the coming months will prove the council's keenness to serve the governorate and its residents.

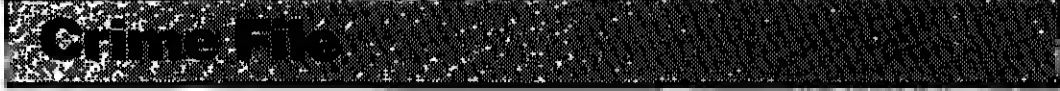
Establishment of governorate councils is a modern step to provide better services to citizens and reflects the concern paid by the government to serving its citizens, the official said.

He pointed out that the members of the governorate council are highly concerned with hearing all complaints and proposals submitted by governorate residents and are keen to attend talks at all Diwanis to be in constant communication with citizens.

Adwani said that a comprehensive review will be conducted on complaints presented by residents against Mukhtars at the governorate.

He said that a special office has been established to receive all complaints and proposals from citizens and is intended to cater to problem of individuals as well as a collective sector of residents.

The director of Engineering Technology at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Works, Adel Abdurrahman was quoted as saying that future projects aim at rehabilitating and expanding the purification stations and international firms had tendered for implementing the project.



Maid jailed for attempting to kill baby

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a maid to seven years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation for attempting to kill her employer's child.

The victim's mother told the court that after feeding the child, she asked the maid to wash the child's mouth and went to sit in the saloon. However, soon she heard the child crying out loudly and rushed to the kitchen to see the maid trying to force the child to drink Chlorox.

She induced the child to vomit and rushed him to the hospital where medical treatment was provided. The child's jacket on which he had vomited and the bottle of Chlorox were produced in court as evidence.

The court was informed that the maid had been working for the family for the past two months and the accused was persistently asking for an increase in salary. As revenge, she tried to

kill the child, the mother testified.

The maid pleaded that she was continuously being beaten by the child's mother. She wanted to leave her employer, but that was not permitted.

The report of the medical examiner showed that there was no sign of the liquid found within the victim's stomach, but attributed this to the quick action of the mother in inducing vomiting and other medical treatment.

However, the confession of the maid was taken into consideration in the deliberations of the court and sentenced passed accordingly.

Kuwait's Court of First Instance acquitted a young boy accused of accidentally causing the death of a woman.

The court was told that the boy was playing with friends near the woman's house and was hit by a

stone alleged to have been thrown by the youth.

The woman was bleeding, but did not report to the hospital. However, the next day, the woman suffered complications, lost consciousness and was rushed to the hospital where she expired.

The husband claimed that his wife had informed him that the boy had hit her with a stone while he was playing on the roof of his house which was opposite to theirs. The victim's son testified that his sister had informed him that it was the boy who had thrown the stone.

However, the court took the following points in the deliberations in passing the not guilty verdict: the husband did not notify the police station at the time of the accident, nor did the victim report to any hospital and the identification was not based on any accurate eye witnesses.

Call to wind up Friday Market

Traders, sellers' reaction

THE Joint Economic Committee's report for reactivating the local economy included several suggestions addressing the business sector. One suggestion has called for closing down the Friday Market which according to the report was constituting an unjust competition for the market.

Friday Market was closed down several years ago and it was re-opened to be utilized by a number of Kuwaiti pensioners and the public showed a great enthusiasm towards the Friday Market reopening as the market was providing several commodities at cheaper rates compared to those at commercial centres.

The Joint Economic Committee report suggestion in this connection has created several reactions among the sellers and the public.

Salah Abdullah said that the Friday Market was an old market which was established in the early days of Kuwait. He added that this market was a large section of the market which was closed down several years ago.

Yaqoub Al Naisshi, said that

was different than that of its counterparts in the country either towards its location or towards its clients. He clarified that this market was serving a wide section of people in Kuwait at reasonable prices and this privilege has put this market in a rival position to the other local markets.

Another trader, Issam Ahmed, said that Friday Market, which opened only on Fridays and remained closed for the rest of the days of week, was trying to provide all the commodities required by the customers and was not in any competition with other local markets either popular markets or commercial centres. He added that the market was playing an important role in reactivating the business movement in the country by purchasing the stock from the merchants and then reselling it at reasonable prices.

Yusuf Al Anbali denounced the idea of closing down this market, stressing that the market was a large section of the market which was closed down several years ago.

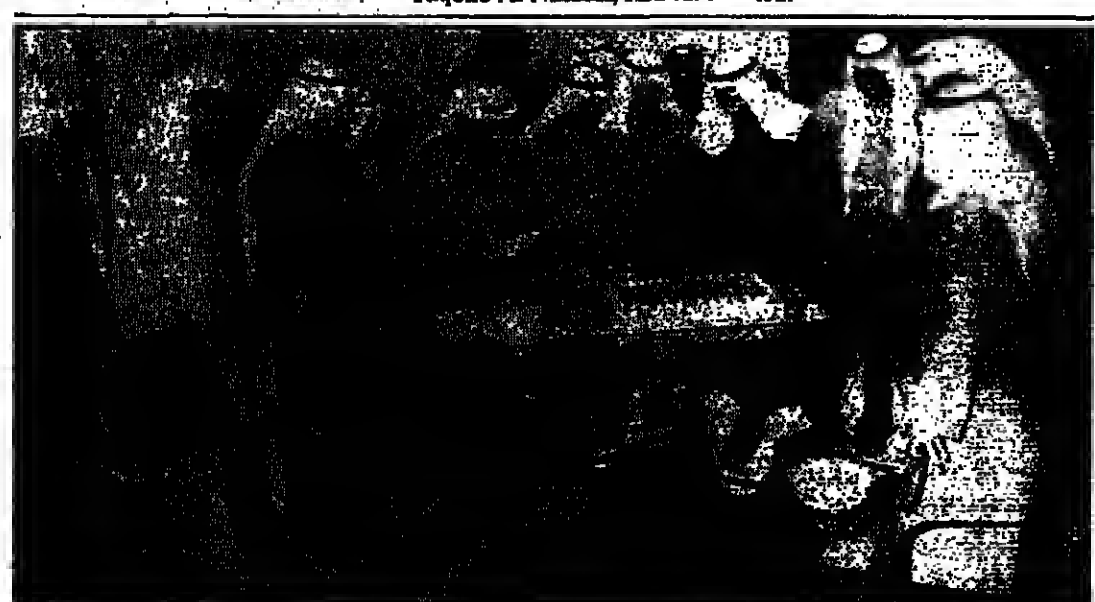
Yaqoub Al Naisshi, said that

he rented a stall from one Kuwaiti and was offering a wide variety of high quality goods. He added that the market was serving the public and the enclosure will adversely affect many traders in Kuwait who sell their stocks to the dealers at Friday Market. Al Jabali Abdullah said that prices at Friday Market were competitive and the market was playing a vital role in reactivating the business.

Sanad Al Ajmi said that the goods at the Friday Market were cheaper and unlike other markets was serving a broad section of people particularly low income classes. He objected to the closing down of the market.

Ali Al Aibi said that Friday Market was not competing with others, but was benefiting markets as well as consumers who can purchase their requirements at reasonable prices.

Ibrahim Ahmed, said that Friday Market was providing a wide variety of goods to the public. He added that the closing down of the market would be unwarranted.



The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training held a celebration recently to mark the seventh anniversary of its establishment. The ceremony was attended by the authority's senior officials including the Deputy Director General Humoud Al Mudhaf, a number of colleges' deans and other senior officials.

Alert for emergency

A LOCAL daily visited a number of fire-fighting centres located along the country's highways in Nuwaisib and Zoor and interviewed a number of employees and firemen to learn of their duties.

A senior official at the Nuwaisib Rescue Centre, Naser Abdullah Al Hidan said that besides fire-fighting operations, duties involve being on constant alert for any emergency. Personnel are called to scenes of road accidents, building collapses and provide first aid measures, artificial resuscitation, setting of fractured bones and initial medical treatment.

Most accidents occur during February being the month when students take their mid-term holidays and also during official holidays in general as well as during spring camps. Last February a total of 244 operations of various types were undertaken, the official said.

He added that the centre operates on a 24-hour basis and is fully equipped with all necessities. Personnel daily routine include regular examination of stand-by and emergency equipment, followed by in-house training, with a 15-minute break and then a theoretical lecture on rescue operations and first-aid duties.

The number of casualties and deaths recorded since last January was 205 compared to 244 in the previous year. The centre's area of duties cover Duhayla Bridge up to Nuwaisib Passports Department and from Wafra till Zoor area.

Last day for registration

THE Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) has announced that Wednesday will be the last day for registration in all of its programmes for the next session scheduled for eight weeks, beginning Feb 10.

Registration is being processed at the premises of the Faculty of Commercial Studies of the authority in the Hawalli area between 4 and 8 pm or at the authority's headquarters in Dasman Complex during normal working hours.

Meanwhile PAAET will open two new centres for society service programmes in Jahra and Mangal areas beginning from the spring sessions.

Special plans to train technical cadres

ONE of the primary aims of the ministries of Social Affairs and Labour in the Arab Gulf states is to modernise the specialised departments and staff to secure optimum services and obligations of society, Kamel Al Saleh, secretary-general of the follow-up Bureau of the Council of Ministers of the Arab Gulf States said.

He added that the council has developed special plans to train the technical cadres in these ministries and has begun to undertake co-ordination activities among the relevant departments of the states in the area.

Salah pointed out that this bureau has completed a number of studies of these departments and their staff in relation to the situation of social welfare establishments, social development centres, programmes of social guidance, services offered to Arab Gulf children, labour services, professional

safety and health industrial security, labour statistics and professional classification.

The bureau has also organised seminars and panels on these topics and had conducted a comprehensive survey on training needs for technical cadres in the light of needs and ambitious policies of Arab Gulf states, he said.

The bureau has also begun a programme to organise celebrations of a social labour week on the Arab Gulf level which will be held every two years. One of the most significant marks of the celebration is to honour pioneers of social work and its leaders in the Arab Gulf states, including organising a labour camp for the handicapped and their friends.

The week also includes an exhibit of products of social welfare houses, an exhibit for Arab Gulf book, photography, completion in social research, field visits and a number of cultural seminars and lectures.



Variety programme

Pakistan People's Club, Kuwait, celebrated the first anniversary of Benazir Bhutto's government by arranging a variety programme which was organised by Rana Imtiaz Hussain Chohan and Choudhury Mohd Akram at the Tariq Hotel. A large number of members of PPC, Kuwait, as well as guests including the president of the club Haji Afzal Noor attended the programme.

Kuwait welcomes resumption of Egypt-Syrian ties

KUWAIT has welcomed resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria and stressed significance of the step in realising Arab aspirations for unity and solidarity in facing immediate challenges.

It also expressed satisfaction at the decisions taken by the Bulgarian movement offering more freedom to Muslims in practising religious rites and the positive Turkish response in the decisions.

The stance was made during a weekly cabinet session on Sunday, chaired by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla.

Briefing newsmen, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed

said the Council of Ministers started its session by expressing best felicitations to His Highness the Amir and the people of Kuwait on occasion of the New Year, hoping that the new decade would be one of prosperity for the Arab and Muslim nations and of continued peace, welfare and stability for Kuwait.

The Cabinet, Al Rashed added, was also apprised of the visit to be paid to Egypt by HH the Crown Prince and Premier coming January 8 at the head of a government delegation.

The delegation will include the Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs, ministers of commerce and industry and justice and legal affairs, senior officials from HH Diwan and the ministries of foreign affairs and finance, army chief

of staff, undersecretary of interior, director of the military staff of the national guards, chairman and director-general of Kuwait News Agency, president of the Kuwaiti Journalists Society and a military and information delegation.

Reviewing the state visit made to Kuwait last week by Chinese President Yang Shangkun, at invitation of the Amir, the Council of Ministers was informed on context of talks between the Kuwaiti and Chinese sides which dealt with all facets of existing co-operation between the two friendly countries and means to strengthen it in line with the close ties binding them, the official said.

The talks, Rashed elaborated, also

tackled ways to implement Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran conflict and reinstatement of comprehensive peace in the Arab Gulf region as well as Mideast developments, the Palestinian people's just rights and overall world conditions of mutual interest.

The government spokesman indicated that Finance Minister Jassem Al Kharafi reported to the session outcome of the joint Kuwaiti-Chinese commission on economic, technical co-operation and trade exchange, which resulted in conclusion of an agreement ending double taxation and an economic, technical co-operation accord between the two governments.

Rashed said the Cabinet has expressed

satisfaction at the gratifying results of the Chinese president's visit and underlined its role in cementing relations between the two friendly states.

The minister of commerce and industry also reported to the Cabinet on his visit last week to Muscat where he took part in the 14th session of the GCC trade co-operation committee, board meetings of the specifications and standardisation authority and the third Gulf industrialists' conference.

The Council of Ministers welcomed resumption of diplomatic ties between Cairo and Damascus as well as recent decisions taken by Bulgaria's government giving more freedom to Muslims to practice their rites and the positive Turkish response to these decisions,

Rashed indicated.

He pointed out that the Cabinet praised the constructive step as reflecting both countries' keenness on resolving this dispute and welcomed the meeting of next January 9 in Kuwait between the Bulgarian and Turkish foreign ministers, under auspices of Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, to tackle vestiges of the problem of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria in a manner serving interests of the two friendly peoples.

Out of interest to make maximum use of available national resources and experiences and to ensure optimum use of human resources, Al Rashed said the Cabinet session has discussed possible

employment of capable pensioners and requests the civil service commission to recommend on the best means to this effect such that pensioners can continue offering their services to the country.

He added that the Cabinet also considered means to strengthen the role of governments' councils in improving the standard of services offered by the state and to ensure harmony between state institutions and those councils in the manner between serving the public.

The Council of Ministers also discussed and approved a recommendation of the ministerial committee on Kuwait's contribution to world, regional and Islamic specialised agencies Al Rashed concluded.

Sheikh Khalifa stresses unity

First trip to Cairo in 16 years

CAIRO, Jan 1, (Kuna): Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani has stressed the necessity of unity among Arab ranks so that great accomplishments can be achieved.

Speaking to Egyptian newspaper Al Ahrar in an interview published here Sheikh Khalifa said Arab unity is a protective shield against any dangers faced by the nation.

He warned that Israel will soon take advantage of the situation to win over as much international support as it can to enhance its aggressive action against the Palestinian people.

Sheikh Khalifa hailed the Palestinian intifada in the occupied land and demanded further Arab support to keep it alive.

The Qatari Amir called on the

Lebanese people to continue the path of national reconciliation and to work hand in hand to achieve national unity and peace.

Concerning the situation in the Gulf, he said that Gulf countries were quick to hail the ceasefire agreement between Iraq and Iran. Even though negotiations between the two countries have stumbled, the two countries have shown readiness to continue peace talks on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598.

This will constitute a positive step that the leaderships of both countries do not want war, according to Sheikh Khalifa who arrived here today on a four-day visit, his first to Cairo in 16 years.

After concluding his visit to Cairo Sheikh Khalifa will head for Algeria.

Khalifa will be accompanied by a high-ranking delegation that includes a number of ministers and senior Qatari government officials.

He is making the visits in response to invitations extended by

Egyptian and Algerian presidents.

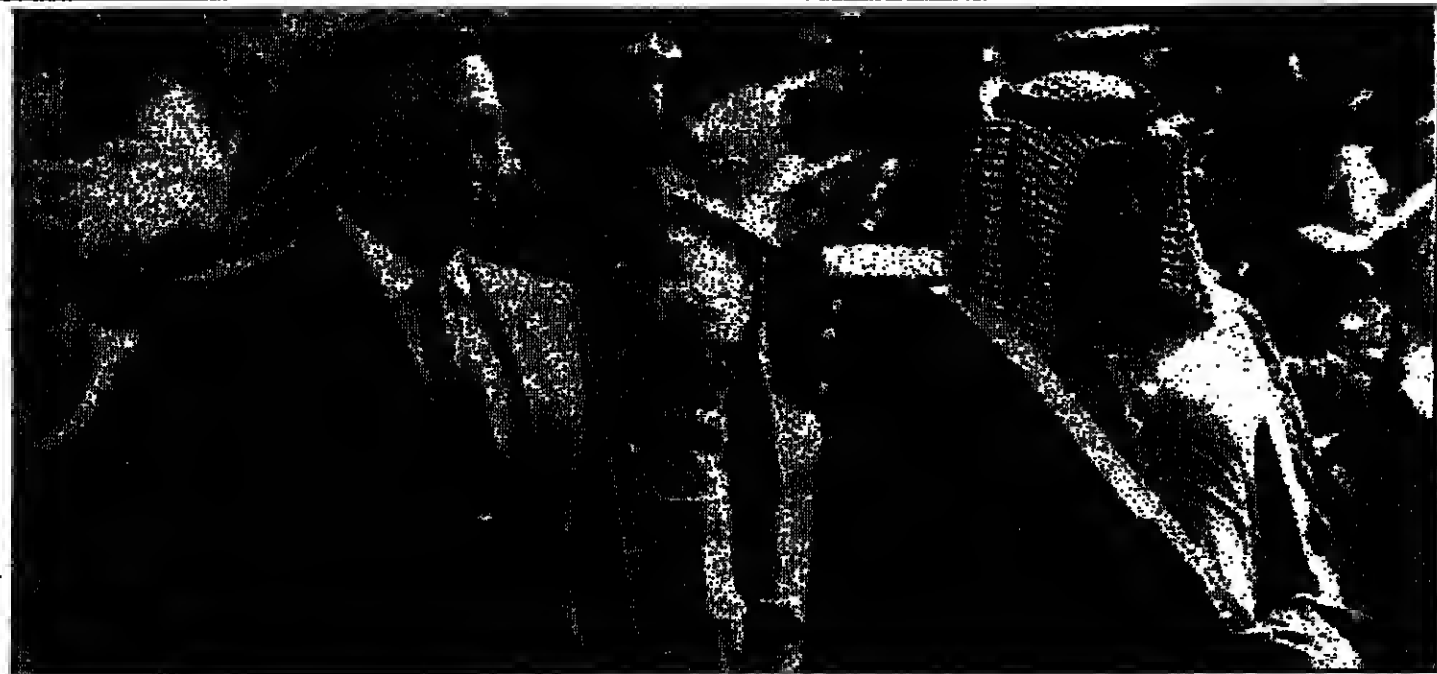
The Amir of Qatar will have talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the Qatari News Agency reported.

The agency said Sheikh Khalifa would visit Algeria after Egypt but gave no further details.

Meanwhile, Mubarak, in an interview with Qatari television, screened last night, described the Qatari-Egyptian relations as "strong and built on honesty."

Meanwhile, Qatari Foreign Minister Abdullah Khalifa Al Attia said, in an interview with a Kuwaiti daily that his country suggests an Arab summit meeting to discuss sweeping world political changes, adding that this summit was "urgent and necessary."

On the Arab-African relations, Al Attia said the Arab side should strengthen ties with Africa on the basis of bilateral co-operation and mutual interests, not on the basis of one-sided aid from Arabs to Africa.



The Amir of Qatar, Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad (right) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak review the guard of honour at the Presidential Palace in Cairo upon Shaikh Khalifa's arrival yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

International Holy Quran reciting contest

MAKKAH, Jan 1, (Kuna): The 12th international Holy Quran reciting contest organised by the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments, starts on Jan 20 at the Islamic Solidarity Hall here, Abdul Wahab Abdul Wase, the minister of pilgrimage and endowments announced.

He said the ministry organises the annual contest in line with the wise directives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, to encourage Muslim youth to memorise the Holy Quran and add

that Islamic endowments and religious Affairs ministers and representatives of various Islamic organisations and centres world-wide were invited to attend the contest.

He said the contest has realised its objectives so far.

Abdul Wase said the conditions of the contest stipulates that the participant's age should not exceed 25 years, that he should have not taken part in previous contests and that he is not among the famous readers in his

country.

He said the ministry will pay travel and accommodation expenditures of participants and has prepared a programme for them to visit the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah and King Fahd Complex for printing the Holy Quran in Madinah.

As much as 1,557 contestants representing 40 Islamic states and representatives of more than 50 Islamic organisations in non-Muslim states and centres world-wide have taken part in such contests since 1979.



The Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti, shown opening the tiling exhibit. The second phase of the project to tile and pave public roads and roundabouts will begin with the new year. The ministry has allocated a KD11 million budget for the two-year project.

Second phase of tile-laying this month

PUBLIC Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti has said that his ministry will start early January implementing the second phase of paving the country's sidewalks and roundabouts.

Houti, in an interview with Kuna, said that the ministry had earmarked KD11 million budget for this stage expected to cover the next two years.

The minister, who was speaking to Kuna after opening the roads maintenance department's tile-laying exhibition, affirmed the importance given to that project and that the coming stage will witness a big expansion in paving and beautifying sidewalks.

He underlined that the ministry was endeavouring to execute the project based on entirely domestic efforts in accordance with the economic report, recently approved by the

government, which advocates activating local industries.

The project provides psychological relief to citizens, Houti remarked, adding that Kuwait, as a desert country, lacks beautiful landscapes which entails need of intensified efforts to compensate that aspect.

The minister pointed to the project's health benefits, namely avoiding accumulation of dust in manholes and in open squares.

Describing the current tile-laying operation as "civilisational", Houti said that it facilitates maintenance since the tiles could be lifted and refitted without breaking them.

He cited, in this respect, artistic designs in

some areas such as flowers near Al Shaab Park, tame animals near kindergartens and sportive shapes around stadiums. The last two are to be executed in the coming stage, he elaborated.

The minister noted that the upcoming stage will witness paving sidewalks of main roads and areas surrounding public utilities.

He underlined that the ministry will commence with the areas of Qadesiya, Shamia, Shuwaikh and Keifan where all services have been completed whether electricity, water or sewerage.

The next plan will target cultivating or asphalted open squares to be used as riding places or car parks, he said, noting that the project will be launched in co-operation with the municipality and the agriculture affairs authority.

System for exchange of data by telephone

RIYADH, Jan 1, (Kuna): A study conducted by computer science and data faculty at King Saud University on advertising board and exchange of electronic data has led to the development of an integrated system for the exchange of computerised data, opinions and programmes by telephone.

The project is sponsored by Dr Abdullah Ibn Mohammed Al Dhalaan, the assistant professor at the department and supervisor of data centre at the college, Saudi Press Agency said.

Dr Al Dhalaan, an expert of computer network and programme engineering told "Resalat Al Jameeyah" newspaper, published by the university, in an interview published Saturday that the new system will enable subscribers to talk with each other, exchange data and reports and to collect any clarification within few minutes.

Dr Al Dhalaan said a statistical system is now under consideration to study the data collected by the system from callers without distribution of any papers or making any effort.

"The new system will facilitate scientific communication between all concerned people and give the graduates an opportunity to contact each other through open conferences or personal letter," he said.

Dr Al Dhalaan states that the system will not receive any information without the approval of the managers of the system.

Island can look back with pride

BAHRAIN can be justifiably proud of its overall progress and development in all spheres during 1989 as it confidently moves into the nineties with the rest of the world. The island witnessed a host of crucial events, celebration of anniversaries of vital institutions and above all unprecedented success in a number of fields in the course of industrialisation of commercial growth both in terms of regional and international importance.

Bahrain saw the culmination of a progressive as well as a turbulent decade of the eighties in the last year. Despite some tremendous odds and island has come out with flying colours as it managed to sustain its economic development schemes to the point where it can look back with more than a sense of satisfaction.

Bahrain enjoyed a number of landmarks in the economic field during 1989, which will be remembered as a year of some of the most significant achievements in Bahrain's history.

1989 opened in Bahrain with the holding of the Fourth Tourism Seminar in the wake of a vigorous campaign launched by the government in recent times to promote and develop the island as a major tourism centre in the region. The event proved a resounding success and generated considerable interest in the hospitality industry in the country. In the following months a number of groups from various European countries toured the island for the first time. Authorities announced plans to build about 18 new first class hotels around the country over the next five years.

The island, long recognised as a leading exhibition centre in the Gulf for both regional and international trade exhibitions, was the venue for a number of prestigious exhibitions this year. Bahrain's exhibition centre hosted the 6th Middle East Communications Conference and reaffirmed the country's reputation as one of the most advanced telecommunications centres in the world. The 5th GCC Trade Fair, the 4th Arab Aluminium Conference (Arabal), International Bar Association Second Arab Regional Conference and 5th Regional Arab Women's Conference, all held for the first time here, were among other important events reflecting Bahrain's growing reputation as a commercial as well as progressive modern nation in the region and elsewhere.

1989 will also go down in Bahrain's commercial history for the opening of the country's stock exchange in April, thereby boosting the island's already solid reputation as the banking and financial centre in the Gulf.

In the field of health, Bahrain became the first country in the Gulf to start a test-tube baby unit at a state hospital in June, followed a few months later by a similar project at a private hospital. The country hosted the Middle East Medicare Conference with great success when more than 75 leading doctors world-wide presented about 150 papers covering specific aspects of the medical profession.

One of the highlights of the year was the success of a seat-belt campaign and general road safety awareness progress. In a bid to increase employment prospects for nationals, the government launched a five-year plan to train and qualify 20,000 Bahrainis to fill positions filled by expatriates as part of the "Bahrainisation" policy.

The year saw Bahrain celebrate vital anniversaries of some of its cherished institutions. Bapco, the country's oil company, celebrated its 60th anniversary. This pioneering company, which was formed in 1928, was responsible for discovering oil for the first time in the region in Bahrain in 1932 and has never looked back since. The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce marked its golden jubilee recently backed by an enviable record of fostering trade and commerce both in the country and the region over the decades. The country's first five-star hotel, the Gulf Hotel, celebrated its 20th anniversary. The reception to mark the occasion was the best of the year drawing over 1,000 guests from all over.

Nurses allowed to work outside

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) has endorsed the right of some nursing staff to work as assistant nurses at ex-ministry clinics by superseding their right to job-nature allowances on the basis of their technical profession.

Mariam Al Raqam, director of the Nursing Services Department at the Ministry of Public Health told a local daily that 175 staff operated as assistants at the clinics on non-professional tasks that lessen the burden on nurses.

She stressed that the CSC endorsed the allocation of 273 grades for the nursing staff to meet existing shortages. The proposal is to be endorsed by the CSC and the Council of Ministers.

A committee under the chairmanship of the director of the undersecretary's technical office, Dr Ahmad Al Ayyaf has been formed and has received 400 applications for nursing positions during their recruitment visit to Bangladesh. Only 123 applicants passed the test, of which only 18 passed the interview.

She added that 75 applicants from residents in Kuwait also applied for these nursing posts and a special committee had been formed to study the applications.

Returning to the issue of clinic assistants operating in ex-ministry clinics, the official said that they undertook tasks aimed at helping doctors carry out general medical examinations by preparing all tools needed in the process. They also monitored patients pulse, temperatures, maintained records and generally provided health instructions.

She said that the ministry is awaiting a decision by the CSC endorsing the allowances for clinic assistants. The ministry of late had suspended courses for clinic assistants and these will be replaced by other courses after co-ordination with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The intended courses are aimed at qualifying Kuwaiti youths in the field of health services and paramedical spheres. This is intended to qualify them to gain the needed skills to take up positions in paediatric hospitals.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

HIS Highness the Amir on Saturday received in audience HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

The Amir on Sunday morning received Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

The Amir has sent a cable of greetings to President Vaclav Havel on the occasion of his election as head of state of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Five-day work

BAHRAIN, Jan 1, (Reuters): Bahraini civil servants will work a 35-hour, five-day week from February 1 instead of the 36-hour six-day week they work now, the Gulf News Agency (GNA) said yesterday.

The agency quoted Bahrain's Development and Industry Minister Youssef Shirawi as saying the Cabinet decided to introduce the Saturday to Wednesday week on a trial basis.

Government schools are expected to follow suit.

Nasser meetings

MINISTER of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mubammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber received at his office chairman and members of the capital's governorate council.

During the meeting, Sheikh Nasser welcomed the council's members and congratulated them for their appointment, wishing them success in serving Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the council Abdul Rahman Al Modahka on behalf of the council members thanked Sheikh Nasser for his ministry's services in various fields.

Sheikh Nasser also received board chairman and members of Kadma's club on the occasion of winning the elections of the club board of directors where they presented to him a memorial gift.

Later on, Sheikh Nasser received chairman and members of the Sea Club on the occasion of winning the board of directors' elections. They presented to him an album containing some pictures of marine life.

Saudi book show

RIYADH, Jan 1, (Kuna): Department of Libraries Affairs of Imam Mohammed Ibn Saudi Islamic University organises on March 3rd the second international book show and invitation has been extended to more than 900 domestic, Arab, Islamic and international publishers to attend the show.

A number of specialised committees were set-up to work out the arrangements for the two-week show to be held at the exhibition hall inside the new premises of the university which has been provided with the most advanced facilities.

Charity show

THE Chairman of the Islamic International Charity Organisation Yusef Al Hajji opened the exhibit of Palestine organised by the Charity Committee in support of Palestinians and Lebanese and will continue till next Monday.

The week is held on the occasion of the 2nd Anniversary of the Palestinian intifada and the returns of the exhibit and charity dish will go to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The week has daily shows of Palestinian folklore and a photography exhibit about the Palestinian uprising.

Curricula meet

A MEETING of the committee set up to follow development and unification of curriculums in the Arab Gulf states, was held at premises of the Arab Centre for Educational Research in the Arab Gulf states. The meeting was headed by Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khudari and attended by Representatives of ministries of education in the Arab Gulf states and the director of the centre Mohammed Al Sania. The meeting discussed a number of reports and memorandums to unify and develop the curriculums of schools in the area, programmes of Arabic and the unification of English text books.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A HAPPY life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy can live—
Bertrand Russell, British philosopher (1872-1970).

Focus on next decade World will demand more from UN

UNITED NATIONS, (UPI)—The world became increasingly interdependent in the 1980s, as exemplified by the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, and will demand more from the United Nations in the next decade to end conflicts and ironment and Aids, the UN chief says.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has headed the United Nations since 1982, said he plans to retire at the end of 1991 after two five-year terms. He expressed regret at achieving what he described merely as "mini-successes" so far.

He is the fifth UN secretary general since the world body was formed in 1945, after World War II.

"The most important thing that has happened since I became secretary-general is that the world has become more interdependent," the 69-year-old diplomat told United Press International in an interview.

Global pollution, debt, the inadequacy of Third World health care and the search for a cure for acquired immune deficiency syndrome has strengthened the need for interdependence and forced governments to remove artificial frontiers in seeking common solutions, he said.

"What is happening in Eastern Europe is a reflection of that interdependence, political as well as economic," he said.

Keenly aware of restraints on his authority, the Peruvian UN leader said the partial successes of his administration have laid the groundwork for possible breakthrough in the 1990s.

Those successes include helping arrange the August 1988 ceasefire that ended the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, overseeing the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan earlier this year and setting the stage for independence in Namibia.

"The first success—absolute total achievement—will be independence in Namibia," Perez de Cuellar said, referring to UN participation in ending South African rule in the last African colony. But there are unresolved conflicts:

—Iran and Iraq have refused to reconcile their differences for a final peace agreement since the end of hostilities.

—The civil war continues in the Western Sahara between the Algerian-supported Polisario Front and Morocco and in Cambodia between the Vietnamese-backed government and a pro-Western Cambodian resistance group.

—Cyprus, invaded by Turkey in 1974, remains divided into Greek Cypriot and Turkish sectors.

Perez de Cuellar predicted that an overall Middle East peace agreement is unlikely in the near future because the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain will not relinquish their own interests in the region.

He warned that any future major war in the Middle East would destroy the strides made in the past decade toward restoring peace. He proposed that the superpowers seize on the warming of East-West relations to end tension in the long-troubled region.

One obstacle standing in the way of an Arab-Israeli peace, he said, could be that Israel does not

speak with a unified voice, "making the task (of negotiating peace) more difficult to the Americans."

Perez de Cuellar said his role as a peace-maker has been less successful than that of UN peace-keeping operations, which won the 1988 Nobel peace prize.

It was awarded to the entire UN peace-keeping force, which currently is made up of about 10,000 soldiers dispersed through several conflict areas, mostly in the Middle East.

The blue-beretted observer teams generally are dispatched to monitor truce agreements, though some stay behind for many years in areas of protracted conflict.

The Swedish Nobel committee said the prize was awarded because "under extremely difficult conditions (they) contributed to reducing tensions where an armistice has been negotiated but a peace treaty has yet to be established."

Perez de Cuellar, who has a reputation for being even-tempered, criticised some of the industrialized nations, chiefly the United States, and commercial banks for their "myopia" in not seeing the Third World's \$1.3 trillion debt.

"It is incredible that the United States does not realise that problems in the Western hemisphere are its problems, too, and it should show more leadership and imagination to resolve them," he said.

He predicted that pragmatic leaders, from the East and West, will emerge. Dogmatic or fundamentalist ideas cannot survive because they "immobilise" the advancement of a population, the UN chief said.

On adding on the Namibia issue, he said, "the international community should not create a South Africa-depended Swaziland. It must help Namibia to develop a sound economic base so it can stand on its own feet."

A UN force of more than 7,000 troops and civilians organised and supervised the Nov 7-11 elections for a constituent assembly to draft a constitution that will lead Namibia toward full independence by April, 1990, ending 75 years of South African occupation.

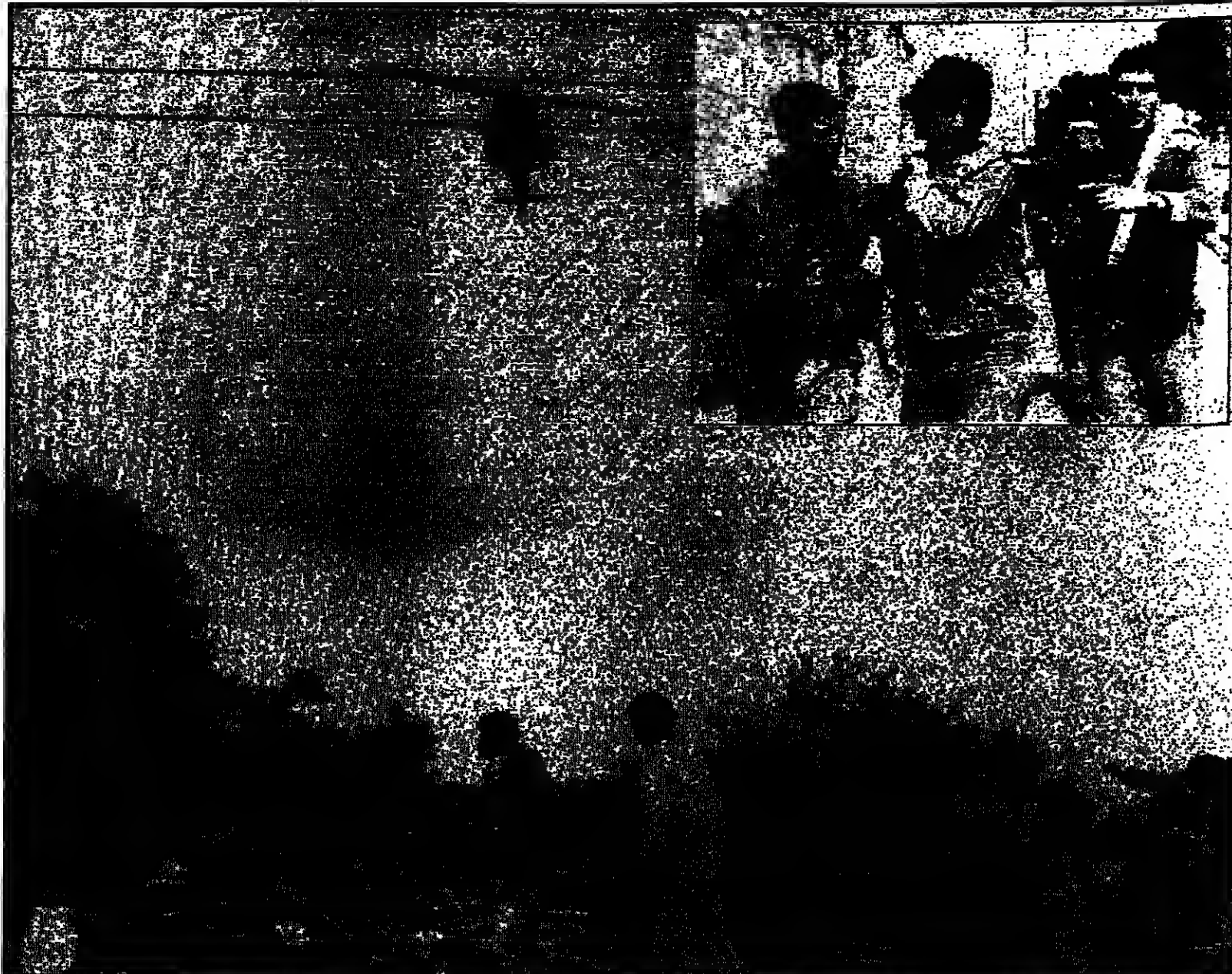
Perez de Cuellar volunteered to raise money and investments for Namibia.

"It will be a masterpiece, but it will depend on the drafting of the charter and the government that will be elected," he said.

Soft-spoken and not always an adroit ad-libber in public, Perez de Cuellar privately displays depth in international diplomacy and the guts that have gained him the trust of both sides in a conflict.

He attributed the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Iraq to the superpowers not being entirely engaged on either side of the conflict.

Perez de Cuellar served as a mediator between Iran and Iraq since the war erupted in 1980 over a border dispute. In July 1987, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire, immediate release of prisoners of war, withdrawal of troops and talks for a final peace treaty.



Palestinian youths hurl stones at an Israeli Army helicopter as women and children flee. (Inset) A Palestinian youth is led away under arrest by armed Israeli soldiers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Greater stability predicted in 1990s

Middle East peace still far off

NICOSIA, Cyprus, (AP)—Efforts are moving slowly to end the Arab-Israeli dispute and other Middle East conflicts, and the decline of hostilities between the superpowers could ouge the region toward greater stability in the 1990s.

Iran-Iraq peace negotiations have stalled. Both sides are rearming amid a growing proliferation of long-range missiles in the region.

This is eroding Israel's long-held technological superiority and brightening superpower concern about a new arms race, including nuclear and chemical weapons, in the volatile region.

The pace of the Arab-Israeli peace process is unlikely to gather momentum for some time, until Israel's right-wing prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, relaxes his hard-line position of refusing to negotiate with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization.

Many observers believe this is unlikely unless there is intense pressure from Washington. Shamir, at odds with a faction of his own Likud Party as well as with his Labour coalition partners, is in no position to start making concessions.

Egypt is expected to remain the crucial mediator between Israel—with whom it signed a peace treaty in 1979—and the Palestinians and other Arab states in trying to reach a comprehensive Mideast peace settlement.

The current focal point of the peace process is a

10-point plan produced by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, designed to break the deadlock over Israel's blueprint for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, torn by a Palestinian uprising.

The main stumbling block is the Israeli government's refusal to negotiate with Palestinians they believe will speak for Arafat's PLO.

Arafat, backed by the Arab League, insists there can be no peace conference not attended by the PLO, which Arab League acknowledges as the Palestinians' sole representative.

Meanwhile, the two-year-old uprising shows no signs of collapsing. Fears have been raised that it will perhaps intensify if there is no discernible progress in the peace process.

Observers believe Arafat, after publicly renouncing terrorism and recognizing Israel's right to exist, has gone as far down the road to moderation as he can without alienating PLO hard-liners.

A year-old dialogue with the United States has failed to result in Washington jarring any concessions from the Israelis. Failure to produce substantive results will leave Arafat exposed and his peace initiative discredited within the PLO.

Hard-liner such as George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have made clear their patience is running out.

The Arab-Israeli peace process, which has dragged on for more than 20 years with only Egypt's

peace treaty to show for it, has a profound impact on the region's other conflicts.

This is most pronounced in Lebanon, the Middle East's proxy battleground, where the Arab League was finally jolted into taking forceful action to end 14 years of civil war.

But the peace settlement it brokered has stalled because the Christian Army leader, Gen. Michel Aoun, rejects the pact, citing its failure to provide firm guarantees of a Syrian withdrawal.

The Syrians, their efforts to pacify their unruly neighbour thwarted yet again by the Lebanese Christians, are becoming frustrated and may yet move against Aoun.

Radical Syria, which needs Lebanon as a security buffer between itself and Israel, is likely to come under pressure from Moscow to moderate its stand on the overall Middle East settlement as détente improves.

Moscow, increasingly crucial to the peace process after years of being edged out by Washington, is already seeking to persuade Syria to abandon its drive for military parity with Israel.

The Kremlin, increasingly concerned with economic and social upheaval at home, has made clear that Syria must end its rifts with Iraq, Egypt and the PLO to achieve the long-elusive Arab unity that is a prerequisite for an international peace conference.

Uncertain future awaits China

Ageing leadership, troubled times

BEIJING, (AP)—An aging, unpopular leadership, a faltering economy and a restive population make for an uncertain and troubled future as China enters the last decade of the 20th century.

Pessimists hold the field as China emerges from one of the worst of many bad years under Communist Party rule—a year in which troops gunned down young demonstrators in the streets of Beijing, long-cultured ties with the West collapsed and a decade of economic reforms ground to a halt.

China's goals for the end of the century—the quadrupling of national income compared to 1980, the smooth reversion of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 and the triumphant staging of the Olympic Games in 2000—are all in doubt.

The key question is how long China can resist the storm of change that have swept through the communist autocracies of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Much depends on the health of 85-year-old Deng Xiaoping. A pragmatist who brought prosperity to millions of Chinese with his market-oriented reforms but also represents the old revolutionary who used Stalinist repression to stifle popular dissent.

Deng's chosen successor is Jiang Zemin, 63, a relatively unknown who became head of the 48-million-member Communist Party in June after reformer Zhao Ziyang was accused of supporting the pro-democracy movement and purged from his party posts.

Jiang, the former Shanghai Party boss, is believed to favour economic reforms but, in keeping with the current line, has come across as a hard-liner since taking office. He needs time to develop his weak political base and cultivate his own political image, and if Deng, believed to be in frail health, goes quickly, Jiang could face a rapid ride into oblivion.

His rivals for power are ideological conservatives such as Premier Li Peng and octogenarian President Yang Shangkun.

Their ascendancy would not mean a return to communes, backyard steel mills and international isolation. But it would accelerate the trend, already in progress, of re-emphasizing central planning, stifling private initiative and retreating on economic and political reforms.

Their demand for unquestioning loyalty to the communist system and Communist Party rule also would put them on what many Chinese believe is an inevitable collision course with the forces of reform.

The Tiananmen Square movement for a more democratic and open society, crushed by the military, is quiescent but is certain to re-emerge

when the government lets down its guard.

Events in Eastern Europe have bolstered beliefs that the Chinese government cannot forever resist popular demand for reform.

Tiananmen also has clouded China's future relationship with Hong Kong and complicated its long-term goal of reuniting with Taiwan.

China has promised not to touch Hong Kong's capitalist system for 50 years after the British depart in 1997. But the nearly 6 million people of Hong Kong were badly shaken by the events of June, setting off a wave of emigrations among the colony's most talented people that is likely to continue until 1997.

The rival Nationalist government on Taiwan in recent years has eased restrictions on trade with and visits to the mainland, raising China's hopes of eventual reunification. But the bloody crackdown on demonstrations reinforced anti-communist sentiments on the island and probably strengthened the growing movement for Taiwanese independence.

Internationally, China's relations with the West will remain at a subnormal level as long as suppression of political dissent is an issue. That could be bad news for the nation's economic planners, who badly need Western investment and technology to carry out the modernization drive.

"The bloom is off the rose," said one Western economist, who noted that Western businessmen will be inclined to spend their money in such places as Eastern Europe or the Soviet Union.



Deng Xiaoping (right) congratulates his successor Jiang Zemin after his appointment as chairman of the Central Military Commission on Nov 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

Letters to the editor

Humiliating remarks

SIR: I wish to respond to E. Haider's letter "Married for love" (AT, Dec 18) discussing her feelings for marrying an Arab.

While I was reading her letter I could not help to stop on a couple of sentences she wrote. "We made great sacrifices to be here, all left their families, friends, expert medical care, first class educational establishment." She said: "There is no luxury in 120°F heat and sandstorms, or when your child is desperately ill and wonder whether he is getting the care he should." Haider added. As a Kuwaiti I felt humiliated by these remarks. I rebut Haider's remarks about our third class educational establishments and our so-so medical care.

I understand the reason of Haider's wonder when her child is sick. She is afraid to take her child to the fat old lady who lives in a tent and might cauterize her child's finger to cure his flu, or might give him a piece of paper and let him swallow it with a glass of camel milk to cure his diarrhoea. May be she should try hard to overcome her fear next time she takes her child to the old lady by replacing her ugly picture with nice thought of all those huge hospital rooms, expert doctors and sophisticated operation rooms that only her country can offer. Try to imagine a child sleeping like an angel in a clean room, doctors and nurses all around him, instead of thinking of that old lady's lap.

I sympathize with you Haider. Wait a minute, correct me if I am wrong but everything you have just dreamed of, all that expert medical care is available in Kuwait and guess what? It is free of charge. Furthermore, Kuwaiti society is very safe, healthwise. On the contrary, Western countries are being chased by ghosts of deadly sexual diseases. An innocent child could be infected with Aids in an expert hospital from blood transfusion.

When it comes to education, the Kuwaiti government is doing everything possible to obtain a high standard of education. In the USA, where Haider thinks they have (a premium) first class education, a high number of students graduate from high school do not know how to read or write. Others do not have sufficient basic knowledge. Some of them do not even know where their country is on the map. The American government is seriously thinking of changing all aspects of early education system in an attempt to fix this dilemma. Maybe, they should consider switching to a third class education.

I know my letter has nothing to do with English girls marrying Arabs. So I like to add, that I agree with Haider's letter. I really think English girls sacrifice a lot to marry Arabs because they actually marry a foreign culture and that goes both ways. Yes, I think love is the only reason.

Ebrahim Alhamar,
Al Rawdah.

Criticism not fair

SIR: This is in reference to various letters appearing in the Arab Times regarding the "Bharath Mela" conducted by UMO.

I, too, was present in the Sharq auditorium, I should confess, thinking it was a party to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Indian independence movement.

The hall was full, and I noticed UMO volunteers arranging additional chairs to accommodate people since the entry was open without any gate fee or restrictions. The Indian leader Jawaharlal Nehru was booted, "Chacha Nehru" with smiling children around him was presented. Audiences cheered tremendously when the glimpses of India's independence movements were projected on the stage. Other items included cultural shows from states other than Kerala which if course in my opinion promoted the idea of national integration and solidarity in the minds of few burocrats of Indians present there.

The meeting prior to the entertainment programme was addressed by the ambassador of India and went on well in accordance with normal protocol. At the end of the entertainment programme the national anthem was recited as a chorus from behind the curtain. All the voices were not picked up by the stage microphones simultaneously, which may be due to technical error. On this point, I do not find any deliberate intention to distort the Indian national anthem. It is unbelievable for any Indian with average common sense to consider that the organisers who conducted such a function to commemorate a great national leader, have such an intention.

Besides this function, I happened to attend other functions in the embassy hall on the other days in connection with "Bharath Mela" of UMO. Various competitions such as fancy dress, music, quiz, etc. were conducted by them. As a parent I understand that UMO had not collected any entrance fee from the children. I really appreciate them in this connection. Hundreds of children participated from the Indian schools. Winners were awarded prizes and certificates. The symposium on "Nehru Thought" and seminars conducted in this connection were also impressive and successful.

As such, I do not find any valid reasons to criticise such social ventures and better avoid misunderstanding among the community. Let me congratulate UMO and suggest them to go ahead with their charity programmes.

C.K. Narayana,
Salmiya.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

I lost my concentration and my cool. Once I had been given the first warning I decided I didn't want to play until the next game and thought I'd give myself a minute and a half to regroup." John McEnroe after teaming with Pam Shriver to earn the US a place in the semi of the Hopman Cup mixed team tennis match.

"Our neighbours already think that Dutch is worthless gibberish, a language in which nothing can be beautifully said. If Dutch is not spoken on an academic level, this would only be confirmed."—a well-known Dutch literary critic on the Netherland's education minister's advocating English language as the medium of instruction in universities.

"People justifiably fear that if Mr Noriega were fired in any part of the world, before long he would be provoking trouble, conflict and violence in our suffering nation." Panamanian bishops asking Noriega be handed over to face trial in a letter to the pope.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1492—Spain captures Granada from Moors.
- 1799—Britain joins Russian-Turkish alliance; Napoleon Bonaparte advances into Syria.
- 1900—Open door policy in China is announced by US Secretary of State John Hay.
- 1905—Russians surrender Manchurian City of Port Arthur to Japanese.
- 1909—Dismissal of Yuan Shih-Kai places Chinese administration in Manchu hands.
- 1913—Turkish garrison oo Chios Island surrenders to Greeks.
- 1932—Manchukuo Republic is proclaimed in Manchuria.
- 1933—Anarchists and syndicalists uprising starts in Barcelona.
- 1937—Anglo-Italian agreement oo Mediterranean and for maintaining independence of Spain.
- 1942—Philippines capital of Manila is captured by Japanese in World War II.
- 1943—Germans begin withdrawal from Caucasus.
- 1965—Ayub Khan wins Pakistan presidential elections.
- 1971—Sixty-six people suffocate and are trampled to death when crowd barrier gives way at soccer match in Glasgow, Scotland.
- 1976—Soviet Union hardens stand oo emigration despite 1975 Helsinki agreement to permit freer movement of people and ideas in Europe.
- 1988—Right-wing guerrillas ambush train near Mozambique's Western border, and at least 22 people are killed and 71 injured.
- 1989—Fierce fighting stretches into third day between rival Shiite Muslim militias in Beirut and south Lebanon.

Badran wins vote of confidence

AMMAN, Jan. 1, (Agencies): Prime Minister Mudar Badran won a convincing vote of confidence from Jordan's lower house of Parliament today after a tense three-day debate.

House Speaker Suleiman Arar told a packed chamber that the government won by 65 votes to nine with six abstentions.

The vote was taken after a hard-hitting two-hour speech by Badran in which he promised to abolish martial law, in force for 22 years, within four to six months.

Muslim Brotherhood deputies, who hold about a quarter of the seats in the 80-member house, threw their weight behind the prime minister but said they would

monitor the government's performance closely.

One Brotherhood deputy, Sheikh Abdul Mun'im Abu Zant, who required police protection after making a fiery speech which upset several deputies yesterday, voted against Badran.

The deputies, who include many Islamists, leftists and other critics of the government, were elected in November in Jordan's first general election since 1967.

The debate contained some of the toughest criticism faced by any Jordanian government in more than 20 years and Badran had to accommodate many demands voiced by deputies.

He rounded on several deputies who had said he was unfit to lead the government because of his past performances as prime minister and intelligence chief.

He marshalled figures to counter charges by former deputy prime minister Dhouqan Al Hindawi that he shared the blame for Jordan's huge foreign debt and government overspending.

To clear himself of insinuations of corruption, Badran said he would be the first to disclose his property and how he had acquired it. All senior officials must now declare their wealth.

Muslim Brotherhood deputies had set 14 conditions as the price for their votes

and Badran opened his speech with a series of promises designed to satisfy them.

"It's a political striptease," one Jordanian observer said of his performance, but government sources believed the prime minister made no substantial concessions to the Islamists.

Badran also vowed to repeal the 1953 law banning communism, to restudy the 1957 law banning political parties and to study the cases of political prisoners for possible amnesties.

The premier said his previous governments had prosecuted hundreds of people on corruption charges.

Police smash peace chain

71 hurt in Jerusalem clash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 1, (UPI): Israeli police, apparently reacting to Palestinian chants supporting independence and the PLO, fired tear-gas and rubber bullets on Saturday into a multinational crowd of demonstrators participating in a human chain for peace around Jerusalem's walled Old City.

More than 71 people in Arab East Jerusalem were treated for injuries caused by rubber bullets, beatings and tear-gas inhalation, hospital officials said. Among those injured were four- and seven-year-old Palestinian children who had skull fractures and an Italian woman who lost her right eye, they said.

Hundreds of the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 demonstrators who gathered for the human chain around the walled Old City in Arab East Jerusalem ran for cover as police and paramilitary border patrol soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets toward the crowd along sidewalks in Arab East Jerusalem.

Police did not disturb peace

activists who linked arms along

the Old City walls in Jewish west

Jerusalem.

Police also opened fire on

demonstrators with a water canon

that sprayed liquid with a

green-coloured dye. The dye-

coloured water is used to mark

demonstrators who can then be

arrested if they manage to flee the

scene. It is a tactic long used by

South African police to identify

street protesters.

Marisa Manno, the 43-year-

old Italian woman who lost her

eye, had retreated to her hotel

overlooking the demonstration

after the initial violence erupted.

She was watching the protest

when spray from the police water

canon shattered a window, send-

ing glass splinters into her right

eye, demonstration organisers

said.

Police detained 43 people dur-

ing the violence and released all

but 16 Palestinians by nightfall, a

spokesman said. Foreigners

were among the wounded and

detained, officials and organisers

said.

The violence erupted as an

estimated 15,000 to 20,000

Israelis, Palestinians and peace

activists from Europe and the

United States linked hands

around Jerusalem's walled Old

City.

It was the largest demonstra-

tion involving Palestinians and

Israelis since the start of the two-

year-old Palestinian uprising

against 22 years of Israeli

occupation.

Palestinian demonstrators

said they believed thousands of

other Palestinians from the

occupied territories would have

joined in the human chain if

Israeli forces had not set up

checkpoints on Saturday to stop

people authorities considered

potential troublemakers from

entering Jerusalem.

The human chain — dubbed

"give peace a hand" — was part

of a three-day conference organ-

ized by Palestinians, Israelis and

Europeans to draw attention to

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

and attempt to explain the con-

cerns of both sides.

A day earlier, up to 5,000

women marched from Jewish

West Jerusalem to Arab East

Jerusalem calling for an end to

the Israeli occupation of the

territories.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy

Kollek and right-wing

parliamentarians criticised

Saturday's demonstration.

Kollek urged political

movements to "stop using

Jerusalem as an instrument for

the advancement of their own

political aims."

Despite the violence, many

participants deemed "give peace

a hand" a major success because

of the better-than-expected

turnout and the participation

involving both Israelis and Pal-

estinians.

Rebels reject

federal system

ADDIS ABABA, Jan. 1, (Reuters):

Sudanese rebels said today there

could be no peace in their country

unless it adopted a secular constitu-

tion.

The rebel Sudanese People's

Liberation Army (SPLA) rejected a

federal system of government this

year under which Sharia, Islamic law,

would be kept in regions where

Muslims are in a majority.

The rebels, fighting since 1983 to

end what they see as domination

of the mainly Christian and animist

south by the Muslim north, want

Sharia abolished.

Amman to restore

AMMAN, Jordan, Jan. 1, (AP): Jordan will restore full diplomatic relations with Libya soon, a senior Jordanian official said Sunday.

"We're reinstating diplomatic representation with Libya," said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

The statement is a further sign that most of the remaining rifts between Arab states are healing, raising expectations of a new era of unity in the long fractured Arab world.

Bus plunges

CAIRO, Jan. 1, (Reuters): Six people were killed when a bus plunged into a canal in Egypt yesterday after the driver died of a heart attack, police sources said.

Survivors said they panicked when they saw the driver die. The bus swerved off the road about 500 metres later.

Villagers helped to rescue 12 passengers from the canal near the Nile-side town of Assiut, 380 km (235 miles) south of Cairo.

Mubarak returns

CAIRO, Jan. 1, (AP): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak returned yesterday from a brief visit to Sudan during which he pledged to mediate a peaceful settlement of the civil war in south Sudan.

"I did in an appointed attempt to qualify 'himself' as 'acceptable' mediator" to the warring Sudanese, Mubarak seemed to pour cold water on an attempt by his host, Sudan's military ruler Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir to reactivate a 1976 defence treaty with Egypt.

Al Bashir had asked Mubarak, as a friend of Sudan and current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, to mediate a peaceful settlement of the civil war that is crippling the African country's economy.

Christmas greetings

MANAMA, Bahrain, Jan. 1, (UPI): Iran's President Ali Khamenei has sent Christmas greetings to world and Iranian Christians, saying his Islamic country respected their beliefs and wished them a Merry Christmas. He also wished Christians to be a fighter against oppression.

Most of Iran's Christians, including several thousand Armenians, belong to eastern Orthodox rites which celebrate Christmas some two weeks later than in the West.

Iran allows Christians and Jews freedom to worship in churches and synagogues.

Egypt-Syria ties

CAIRO, Jan. 1, (Reuters): President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published on Saturday that the resumption of ties between Egypt and Syria was not aimed against Iraq.

Syria, Iraq's long-time foe, resumed ties with Egypt on Wednesday, ending a break of 12 years over Cairo's relations with Israel.

Diplomats in Cairo have said that Iraq, linked with Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen in the Arab Co-operation Council economic grouping, would be angered by the resumption of ties.

Sudan calls

KAMPALA, Jan. 1, (Reuters): Sudan said an invasion by its forces into northwest Uganda in which a Ugandan soldier was killed was a mistake, state-run radio Kampala said today.

Sudan's military attaché in Kampala told Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni last Friday's incursion was "a mistake by the local commanders," adding it was at odds with the country's policy of good neighbourliness, the radio said.

Uganda has officially adopted a neutral attitude towards a civil war raging in southern Sudan for the past five years.

4 die in air raids

NAIROBI, Kenya, Jan. 1, (AP): Ethiopian rebels today claimed government warplanes bombed two villages in drought-stricken northern Ethiopia, killing four people and destroying badly needed crops.

The rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front, in a clandestine radio broadcast, said four government MiG-23 fighter jets bombed the villages of Adus and Edaga Hamus in Tigray province Thursday, killing five cattle in addition to the civilians and destroying the crops.

The barbaric act is aimed at subjecting inhabitants of the area to starvation," said the rebel broadcast monitored in Nairobi. Adus and Edaga Hamus are in northern Tigray, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of the border with Tigray's northern neighbour Eritrea.

Sniper kills boy

BEIRUT, Jan. 1, (Reuters): A sniper killed five-year-old Rafi Rizkallah in Beirut yesterday as he played on the balcony of his home while his parents were preparing to celebrate New Year's Eve, hospital sources said.

They said the child was hit in the stomach by a sniper's bullet fired from Syrian-controlled Muslim west Beirut. The boy's home is in Christian east Beirut near the city's dividing green line.

"He was playing on the balcony with his father when his mother called her husband to the kitchen to help her prepare for celebrating New Year's Eve," said one sobbing relative.

Israel holds back a million

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 1, (Agencies): The Israeli Army forced nearly a million Palestinians to stay in their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip today in a bid to prevent demonstrations marking the 25th anniversary of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

The clandestine Palestinian leadership of the two-year-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories had called for massive protests on the anniversary of the founding of the PLO's mainstream Fatah group.

Police, meanwhile, said postal authorities had defused 10 letter bombs sent from Cyprus in the past few days and warned the public there could be more on the way.

In December 1987, two Israelis were slightly wounded by booby-trapped Christmas cards sent from Turkey and Israeli experts blamed Fatah for the attack.

The army clamped a curfew on the 650,000 residents of the Gaza Strip before dawn today and barred journalists from entering the occupied area unless accompanied by the army.

In the West Bank, troops confined 300,000 residents to their homes, imposing curfews on major cities and 43 of 19 refugee camps. They also closed a closed military area.

Bethlehem residents said soldiers forced shopkeepers to close their stores shortly after they opened.

Despite the restrictions, pictures of PLO and Fatah leader Yasser Arafat and his assassinated deputy, Khalil Al Wazir, were pasted all over the West Bank.

Palestinian activists also distributed leaflets tracing the history of Fatah.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's largest commando group, Fatah, was founded on Jan. 1, 1965, three days after launching its first military attack against Israel.

Palestinian commandos then blew up Israeli water installations near the Jordan valley village of Aliboun in a failed attempt to divert the flow of the Jordan River.

In Jerusalem, female high school students raised Palestinian flags and chanted slogans saluting Fatah and the Palestinian uprising. Police surrounded the building but did not intervene.

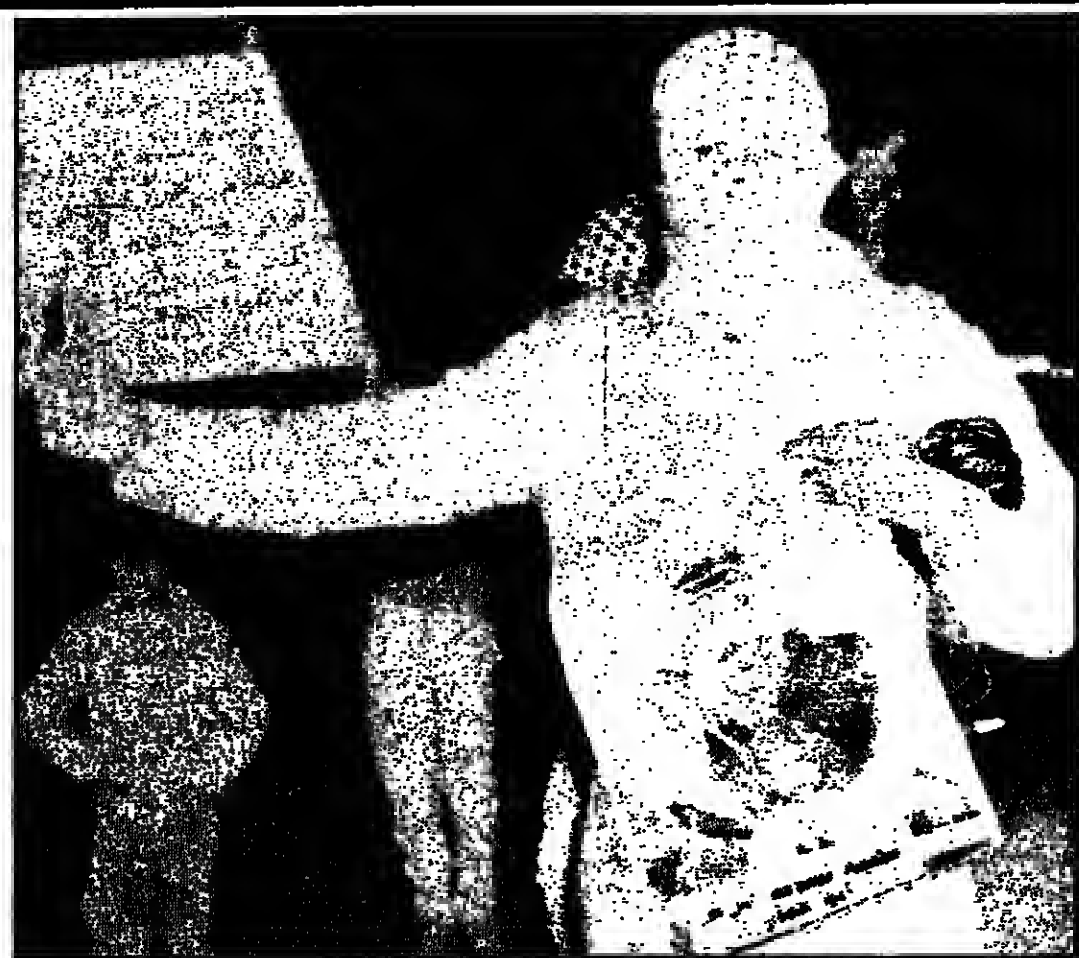
Police said they found a dead grenade under the car of Vice Premier Shimon Peres' wife outside their Tel Aviv home.

For the fourth day in a row, unknown Arab assailants shot dead yesterday a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israel, Arab reports and Israel radio said.

Masoud Ibrahim Imadi, 28, died instantly when three masked men entered his home in the Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and shot him a number of times at close range, Arab reports said.

They said Imadi, a mechanic for the UN Relief and Welfare Association, was suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

His death rose to 165 the number of Palestinians killed by fellow Arabs during the two-year Palestinian uprising. Most were suspected of collaborating.



A masked Palestinian with rope tucked under his arm, holds a knife as he displays a Yasser Arafat poster at a demonstration in Hebron to mark the Fatah Day. (Reuters wirephoto)

PLO marks anniversary of first raid

'Independence nearer'

BAGHDAD, Jan. 1, (Agencies):

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday the dream of establishing an independent Palestinian state is now closer to reality than when his Fatah group first launched raids on Israel in 1965.

Speaking to reporters on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the first raid Jan. 1, 1965, Arafat said the movement which he and other activists formed in 1959 has rekindled Palestinian hopes of regaining a homeland.

"The revolution which started with a bunch of pioneers now encompasses all the Palestinian people," he told a news conference in his headquarters in the Iraqi capital.

"I feel I'm closer now to the Palestinian state than at any time in the past," he said.

Arafat speaking to the London-based newspaper Al Hayat said when late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini fled from Iran to France during the era of Shah Mohammed Reza, the PLO leader offered him refuge in parts of southern Lebanon under the control of his

commandos at the time.

But Khomeini, Arafat said, preferred Paris "on pretext that the media machine there was more important."

"When the (Khomeini) revolution scored victory, we (the PLO) trained the Revolutionary Guards," claimed Arafat.

"This doesn't mean that they did not have qualified officers for training, but they intended not to depend on pro-Shah officers."

Arafat said "the theory to form the Revolutionary Guards was my theory. Khomeini once asked me what to do to face the army of the Shah."

"I told him: Establish guards and call them the Revolutionary Guards."

Arafat claimed nearly 1,000 Palestinians have been killed in an uprising against Israeli rule that erupted in December 1987, a development that spurred the Palestine National Council, the PLO's parliament-in-exile, to declare an independent Palestinian state Nov 15, 1988.

"This is not an ordinary war of liberation," Arafat declared.

"We're fighting against a mighty colonial power."

Most of the founders of Fatah, the main component of the PLO, have been assassinated or killed in combat with Israeli forces.

Arafat and a few of the old guards are still in command. But they are now pursuing a more moderate policy to negotiate with Israel and establish a Palestinian state in an area roughly encompassing the occupied West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip, seized by the Israelis.

"Our state is only a stone's throw away from where we stand now," he said.

Arafat said the Palestinians in the occupied territories have established the infrastructure for a state he claimed has been recognised by 117 countries.

"Everything's ready. We only need to be there," he said.

The uprising has hit the Israeli economy and the crackdown by Israel's security forces against rioters armed in the main with stones and gasoline bombs has tarnished the Jewish state's image around the world, Arafat said.

Masoud hangs four rivals

Fighting in Khost

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 1, (Agencies):

Mujahadeen rebels claimed today to have killed or wounded 150 government troops and losing 30 of their own in three weeks of fighting in and around the Afghan town of Khost.

Fazal Akbar, head of Afghan information and documentation centre, a pro-rebel but non-aligned news agency, quoting a mujahadeen commander said "the fighting left 150 government troops dead or wounded."

He said rebel casualties included 30 dead and 80 wounded.

"Most parts of the city of Khost have been destroyed," said Akbar, quoting Mali Khan, commander of Harkat-e-Insleeb-e-Islami rebel group. Various mujahadeen groups have been co-ordinating their fighting in the area. The fighting in Khost, 15 miles (25 kilometres) west of the Pakistani border, was also a combined operation.

Mali Khan also claimed that the mujahadeen shot down an Afghan military transport aircraft on Dec 25.

Meanwhile, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-i-Islami group, demanded that Burhanuddin Rabbani of the more moderate Jamiat-i-Islami stand trial for the Dec 21 executions of four members of the Hezb-i-Islami group.

"They took a dastardly action. We didn't imagine Jamiat would resort to such a heinous act," Hekmatyar told a news conference in Islamabad.

He called for the appointment of an independent tribunal to try Jamiat leaders for the hangings, which he claimed were the product of a "mock trial."

Hekmatyar said he was ordering his own men to stay calm. "We won't seek retribution in a retaliatory way. I want to call on all Hezb-i-Islami commanders not to knuckle under to their emotions," Hekmatyar said.

Midia, a joint rebel news agency representing an alliance of seven Afghan groups said, the insurgents killed 14 government troops and captured 20 in Paghman, just west of Kabul, on Dec 21. The government troops who were trying to block a mujahadeen-controlled road between Paghman and Arghandab suffered the losses when the insurgents attacked and cleared the road, Midia reported.

Referring to the executions, a Jamiat spokesman said its renowned northern commander, Ahmad Shah Masoud, ordered the hanging of Syed Jamal and three other men of the Hezb party in Taloqan, capital of northern Takhar province.

"According to the report, Jamal confessed his crimes against the mujahadeen and the people," said the spokesman.

Rival Shiite clash eases but goes on

BEIRUT, Jan. 1, (Reuters):

Rival Shiite militias exchanged rockets and machinegun fire in South Lebanon for the 10th successive day today after mediation efforts failed.

Security sources said fighters of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah clashed in the strategic Iqlim Al Tufah area 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

There were no casualties in the latest fighting, the sources said. At least 57 people have been killed and 225 wounded in the street-to-street battles which erupted in villages on December 21.

The fighting has eased since commandos loyal to P

EVENTS

Filipinos learn about Symphony



Kapilku's participants listening attentively.

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) held their fourth week of their computer course on Friday at Kabayan Restaurant. More than 100 participants learned about a new programme called Symphony.

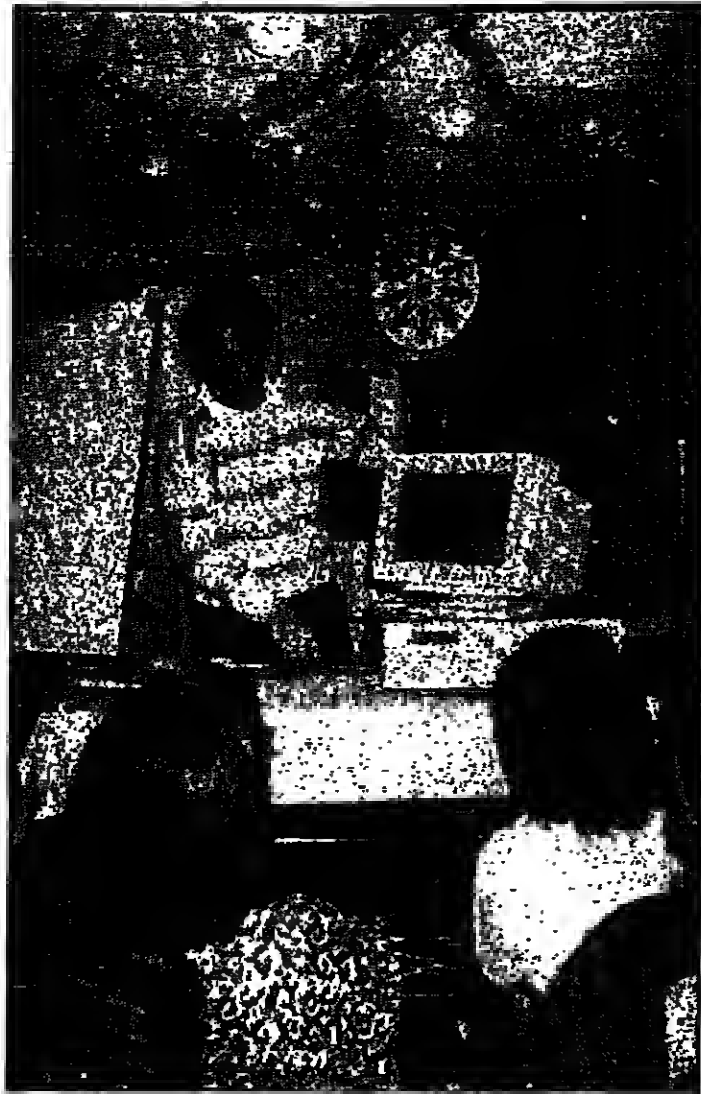
Jonathan A. Gonzales, financial accountant of the Holiday Inn Hotel, briefly explained the features of Symphony. He also explained the mechanics, importance and commands of Sym-

phony.

Rudy Ocampo, manager of Echn electronics will discuss Data Base III Plus on the last day of the course. He will be assisted by Joel and Arlene Boncillo a computer engineer and a programmer, respectively.

Kapilku's auditor Bada Borja is the chairman of the course - Sarah Macarimhang, vice-president for Social and Cultural Affairs is the over-all co-ordin-

ator of the project. The computer course is a project of Kapisanang Pilipino sa Kuwait (Kapilku) and is sponsored by Kabayan Restaurant. The last session and the awarding of the Certificate of Attendance will be held next Friday at 9:00 am. Successful students will be awarded a certificate right after the last programme of the session by Kapilku president Manny Inserto.



Jonathan Gonzales discussing the basic commands in Symphony.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.35 Loulo: Al Sagheera: local children's play, starring: Dewoud Husain, Intesar Al Sharah and Abdul Naser Darweesh
11.30 The Little Horse Blue: English foreign feature film
1.00 News summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 KTV 1 Programmes Preview for 1990: Local programme, prepared and presented by Narvan Edrees
3.00 Ismael Yaseen Fi Al Jaish: Arabic feature film, starring Ismael Yaseen, Abdul Salam Al Nahulsi and Sameera Ahmad
4.35 Beroen: cartoon serial
5.15 Mama Anisa and Children: local children's programme
5.45 Night Chemists, air-locks and official advertisements
6.00 Imam Mohammed Abdh: historical serial (part 3)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Holy Quran and science: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim
8.00 Varieties
8.25 Omsiyat Al Ehteen:

local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes

- 9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ghdan Tushrejo Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 1), starring: Iman Al Tokhi, Anwar Ismael, Nawal Abu Al Fntonh and Imad Rashed
10.45 Masra Al Mutanabi: historical serial (final part), starring: Abdullah Ghaith, Sameeha Aynuh, Ameena Rezz
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Diplodos: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Dartmoor "Spring": The beauty of spring season... four types of swamps... huge rocks are used as crossing means over rivers...
7.00 Peaceable Kingdom "Gorilla": Reheca takes care of the zoo, at the expense of her leisure time and her children's affairs.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Yon and the Law
8.45 Coming of Age: Dick,

a retired pilot, plans to keep away from life. His wife, however, encourages him to participate in social life.
9.15 The story of Hollywood "Hollywood goes to War": Hollywood during World War II and the role of the American cinema in raising morale of soldiers and entertaining them... the role of women in this war...
10.00 The Twilight Zone: A bank employee who knows only figures language, has an accident that changes his life altogether. He becomes able to foresee future accidents and events...

10.30 Silk Route of the Sea: Tartous, the Syrian port on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, served as an important point on the Silk Route. A Japanese-Syrian team of divers attempt to find the secrets of sea trade on the Silk Route between Europe and the Far East.
11.15 A mao called Hawk "The Master's Mirror": A colonel calls his ex-subordinate and asks him to find an old companion called Traks without giving him any more details.
11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Lecture
PROFESSOR Oleg Grabar, of Harvard University, USA, will give a public lecture on "The Earliest Representations of Mosques in Islamic Art." The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1990 at 6:00 pm at the Kuwait

National Museum lecture theatre. The lecture, which is in English, is open to all.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tues-

day 11.00-12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2433259.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2427951.

SOCIAL

Danielle Coffee Morning
THE next coffee morning for Danes will be held on Jan 7 at 9.30 am in the Meridian Hotel, first floor. For details please call Joge - Tel: 3727688 ext. 207.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga, healing, classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

IAC Children's Competition
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funtaines on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Scholns.

Konkani Drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Meninn De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funtaines) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junir Rod, Carins, Rnsarin Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Meninn de Bandar.

IAC table tennis

THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel: 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel: 2433552, or Sharma at Tel: 2644863 for entry passes and details.

Sanz Aur Aawaz
FEB 2: Sanz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle. Funtaines on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

II Annual one act Play Competition
INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funtaines. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990. Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Vishal Musical Group
VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their second Musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funtaines, Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films, as well as classical and fast dances by young talented artists. There will be a lucky draw and tea served at the end of the show. For gate passes contact: 2412970 (Raja Stines), 4317290 (Shahani Video) or 4318290 (Rhythm Cassette Shop).

Kalpak's drama competition
Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction, Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries. Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat, Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481, Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnao 4316737.

The Carnival Nite
"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main

ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your ght and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

SPORTS

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round, with qualified swimming instructor. Open to members only. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30 pm. Beginners-improvers-adults. Mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00, Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/ black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6-7 on Tackwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6: Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shurailkh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Health Matters

BBC World Service

15(min)
Health Matters is back, and from now on it is a permanent World Service series. Presenter Janet Davey outlines the agenda... Coping with cancer, the fight against Aids, new treatments for eye diseases and tips on first aid: just a few of the developments in a fast-moving medical world that Health Matters explained last year.

Janet Davey keeps track of health around the world.

Now we're back on the air with a new series and an exciting line of health topics, examining the latest ideas on treatments and preventive care. For example, this month I'll be discussing back pain with specialists and a sufferer, to find out what causes it, how to avoid it and how to treat common types of backache.

Then there is good news for women in developing countries on the sensitive subject of sanitary wear. It's often a taboo topic, with hygienic sanitary towels difficult to obtain. Now a campaign has been launched to make sanitary wear more widely available.

There is also news of some simple games for children and grown-ups which will teach them how to look after themselves and others. And details of the latest treatments for epilepsy - with tips on what to do if you see someone having a fit.

Looking ahead to next month, there will be four special programmes from the West Indies and Africa looking at women's and children's issues, as well as Aids in the developing world. But we start the New Year with plenty of new Health Matters ideas which could affect you and your families. I look forward to joining you.

● Mins, Tuhs, Weds.

Warm reception for Izzuddeen Sahib

WELL-WISHERS and friends gave a grand warm reception to the advocate Izzuddeen Sahib, who was on a short friendly visit here, on 12/89 at New Kheitan Indian Mess premises. The reception, which started at 7.30 pm, Nennam Meera Sahib, in his welcome address, praised Izzuddeen Sahib about his achievements in the social and political fields.

In his brief speech Williams brought out a clear picture of the common Indian workers employed in the Gulf region and stressed the importance of their rehabilitation in Kerala. He requested Sahib to exert pressure on the state and central governments, under the changed political situation, to achieve this goal.

P.B. Jamal, Thomas Chittesham, R.V. Hyder Ali, Oornila Vijayakrishnan, Stephen Joseph, Hassan Thikkodi and John Mandorau spoke on the occasion and congratulated the guest.

His speech mainly touched the social and cultural problems of the common man. He admitted that, with more than three decades of experiences in the social fields, the problems of Gulf Malayalees were not new to him and he had tried to solve some of their problems with his influence when he occupied government and organisational posts in the past.

He spoke of the relations between Kuwait and India. He said for Indians "if India was the mother, then Kuwait was the step mother." He criticised the political parties in India about the unrest in the social life prevailing there and said no religion was advising its followers to hate, distrust or distrust other religion's followers. He stressed, quoting verses from the Holy Quran, that the basis of all religious principles was the peaceful co-existence of all mutual respect for everybody and to achieve this in a society, the people must return to the basic faiths of the respective religion.

In his concluding speech, Izzuddeen Sahib assured the audience that he would try to solve the problems of the Gulf Malayalees with his present limited political influence and press for their causes with the state and central governments. He thanked one and all who assembled for the reception.

Rajan Daniel gave the vote of thanks. The audience was attended by a number of prominent Malayalees from different walks of life.

The organising committee who arranged this reception consisted of F.V. Morris (co-ordinator), A. Sharaf, A.M. Azim, A. Nizar, K. Mohammed Ali and Jainamudren.

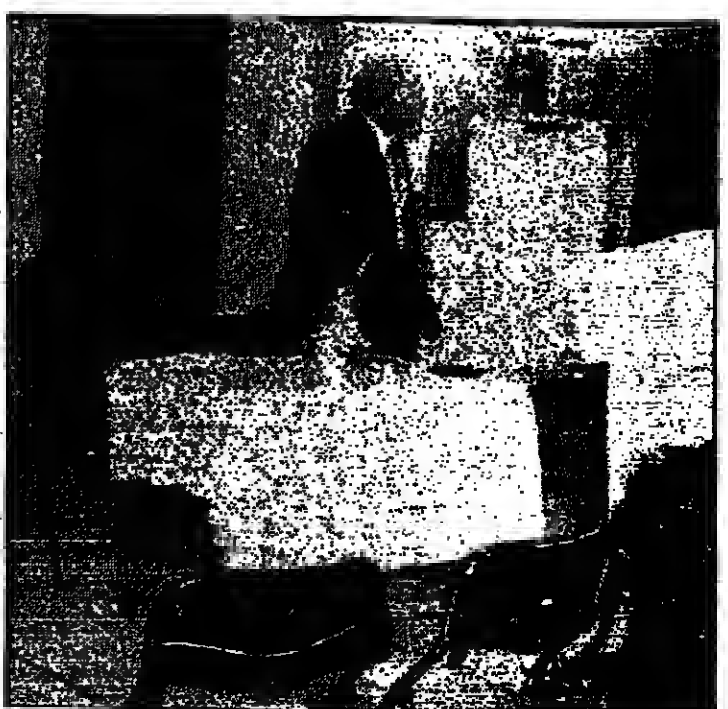
Seasons greetings

Executive Chef, Didar Cazes of the Meridian Hotel, Kuwait prepared a special festive menu served for lunch and dinner at the La Bresserie and Versailles Restaurants of the hotel on 31st December 1989. Photo: The Meridian Chef with A. Raslan, the assistant Food & Beverage Manager.



KIH wins award

The Arab Traveller, the reputed Arabic magazine of the Middle East issued from Bahrain recently nominated Kuwait International Hotel as its recommended hotel. Seen in the picture presenting the plaque is Ebrahim Bokamal of the Arab Traveller to Hermann Simon, General Manager, KIH. Also seen in the picture are: Adnan Saad, PR Manager, and Nusrat Islam, Media Manager, KIH.



S. Williams

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Sahndyah
Hall Booked
Al Hams
Licence to Kill
Drive-In
W.L.L.O.W
Al Firdous
Yateem
Fahsheel
North Shore
Al Jahra
Arpaan
Granada
Poomam

Sutabikhat
Brass Target
Jeeb
Sakim Hawed
Almadi Drive-In
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.18 am
Zohr 11.51
Asr 2.42 pm
Maghreb 5.00
Isha 6.22

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Singh plan to help poor

(Continued from Page 1)

landless cultivators and artisans up to Rs10,000. It has also said that a long-term fiscal policy would be presented during the budget session of Parliament.

Reiterating the government's commitment to curb ostentatious and elitist consumption, the announcement said that measures needed in this regard would be taken early. To push up exports in a big way and plug loopholes in the import-export rules are also simplifying procedures, the government will announce new three-year import-export policy on April 1.

Simplified pre-shipment documentation will be finalised and announced on March 1. The export policy will encourage the export of items with high net foreign exchange content.

The Defence Ministry will appoint a committee to examine modalities for implementing a scheme for realising the ruling National Front's commitment to the principle of "one-rank-one-pay" for ex-servicemen.

The government will set up a National Security Council under the chairmanship of the prime minister by April to work out an integrated long-term defence strategy for the country. It has promised a comprehensive legislation on electoral reforms and the setting up of a high-level judicial commission for appointments and transfers of judges. The bill seeking to grant autonomy to state-owned radio and television, already introduced in Parliament, will be enacted after a national debate in the next session.

The government also plans to amend the constitution to guarantee the "right to information." The citizen's right to privacy will also be safeguarded through legislation. An amendment to the official secrets act will also be carried out.

After the state assembly elections, due in early 1990, an inter-state council will be set up. Special measures for the minorities will be formulated during the budget session of Parliament a scheme to ensure that special courts are promptly set up for expeditious disposal of cases relating to caste and communal riots will be finalised before March.

The government has promised the highest priority to the promotion of workers' participating in management, and necessary legislation will be brought forward in the next session of parliament.

From April, the government has assumed a substantial expansion of the existing programmes for the urban poor, including provision of basic services and facilities in slums and special attention to the needs of women and children. A scheme for providing night shelter for pavement dwellers in major cities is expected to benefit about 1 lakh people during the coming financial year. A comprehensive national housing policy and the liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers has also been proposed.

Exchange controls scrapped

PARIS, Jan 1. (Reuters): For the first time since 1945, the French will be allowed to open accounts in foreign currencies when the banks open tomorrow after the New Year holiday.

They will also be legally able to have bank accounts abroad.

Successive governments have been pushing out foreign exchange controls over the past four years and Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy speeded up the process as a sign of France's commitment to European Monetary Union.

The government decided in mid-December to end remaining foreign exchange controls on January 1. Bérégovoy also wanted to show his confidence in the franc's ability to withstand the potential transfer of cash abroad by investors.

Convertible dinar introduced

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Jan 1. (AP): Yugoslavia today introduced a new dinar freely convertible to Western currencies and worth 10,000 old dinars, the state Tanjug news agency reported.

The new currency has been fixed at seven to the West German mark, and its introduction is part of government attempts to battle inflation which exceeds 2,600 per cent last year, said Tanjug.

A government austerity programme also includes a wage freeze and liberalisation of most prices still under subsidy over the next six months, said Tanjug.

Unemployment in 1989 was at 17 per cent, and the foreign debt is at \$17 billion in this non-aligned communist country.

Travel agents cut discount

Kuwait's air passengers to pay more

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

MOST of the airlines in Kuwait have been gradually increasing the fare in stages to improve their yield. A tendency of joint action by various airlines in the matter of increasing in the fare has been noticed, particularly for the last one year. The travel agents have not benefitted from this move since they have been giving 7 to 8-1/2 per cent commission to the passengers. The travel agents pay discount to the pas-

sengers out of the 9 per cent commission which they receive from the airlines. Now they feel justified in taking a united stand to protect their interest by reducing the discount level to 4 per cent.

All the airline passengers in Kuwait will have to pay additional 3 to 4-1/2 per cent fare for their ticket from January 1, 1990.

Kuwait Travel and Tourism Agencies Association (KTAA) issued a cir-

cular to all the travel agents in Kuwait, and said "the travel agent may offer discounts on their granted commission, that should not exceed the amount shown as per contract signed with KTAA."

Fahad Al Wazzan, member of the board and treasurer of KTAA told the Arab Times that the decision has been taken by the association in order to protect the travel agents' interests and improve overall performance. Airport Service Tax will be collected

at the time of ticketing. KTAA has formed a sub-committee to look after the interest of the travel agents who had signed contracts with the association. The concerned travel agents were already informed to abide by the new regulations.

Some of the revised economy class excursion fares are given below: Kuwait-Cairo-Kuwait will be approximately KD95,500. Kuwait-London-Kuwait KD250,250. Kuwait-Manila-Kuwait KD314. Kuwait-Bombay-

Kuwait KD171,500 and Kuwait-Trivandrum-Kuwait 242,500.

A local airline executive has said the association's move gives a bitter sweet reaction. The increase in fare levels may bring down the number of passengers travelling and apparently airlines will not be happy about this. But he admitted that the revised fare will give new fillip to the travel agencies' financial stability, which is a matter of constant concern for the airlines. A top executive of a travel agency said "It is a good

move because travel agencies are expected to give better services and who the passenger. There will not be any price war."

KTAA organised a meeting in Kuwait recently to brief travel agents about the new fare structure, the activation move of the travel industry and its performance. About 100 representatives from the local travel agents including officials from Kuwait Airways and Kuwait Aviation Department attended the meeting.

Budget projects growing confidence

Saudi Arabia to boost spending

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Jan 1. (AP): Saudi Arabia yesterday announced a 1990 budget that increased expenditure by 2 billion riyals (about \$500 million) and listed an anticipated increase in revenues, apparently reflecting an improvement in the world oil market.

But the world's largest oil exporter ran a budget deficit for the seventh straight year — 25 billion riyals (\$6.6 billion) the same as in the 1989 budget.

For the third year running, the deficit will be covered by development bonds.

The kingdom first adopted the procedure in 1987 to curb drawing on reserves estimated to have depleted to about one-third of the \$150 billion the Saudis held at the height of the 1970s oil boom.

Overall, the budget projected a growing confidence that the worst of the oil-driven slump is over and that medium-term economic prospects are improving.

A statement by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy put anticipated revenues at 118 billion riyals (\$34.4 billion) in 1990, against 115 billion in 1989, and government expenditure at 143 billion riyals (\$38.1 billion).

More than one-third of expenditure will go on defence, the breakdown showed.

King Fahd also announced a 753 billion-riyal (\$200 billion) five-year development plan during a council of ministers session in Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia's revenue last year was 116 billion riyals (\$30.9 billion). Expenditure was 141 billion riyals (\$37.6 billion).

The kingdom, the leading member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has been suffering budget deficits since 1973 because of the oil price slump.

But oil revenues are up, as much as 20 per cent over 1988 by some estimates, as prices firmed despite rampant over-production by some Opec states in violation of output quotas.

The improvement of a 1 per cent rise in revenues reflects the improvement in oil prices, although the Saudi statements did

UAE sees stable oil market

ABU DHABI, Jan 1. (Reuters): A senior United Arab Emirates (UAE) official, in remarks published today, urged Gulf Arab states to agree on a common oil production policy and keep prices stable.

"Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states should agree a joint oil output policy that conforms to Opec decisions," Al Itihad newspaper quoted Central Bank Governor Abdul Malik Al Hamar as saying.

The policy should include among its priorities prevention of a large increase in prices," Al Hamar said.

The GCC groups Opec members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE with non-Opec Bahrain and Oman. It has about half the world's oil reserves and accounts for half Opec's output.

"The 1990s carry great hopes for Arab and Gulf oil producers as expectations point to stability in production and prices," Al Hamar said.

Finance and industry ministry undersecretary Naser Al Nuweiri told reporters oil prices were likely to rise in 1990.

Nuweiri, head of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (Adfad), said higher revenues would allow the fund to make more loans.

Not specifically say the 2 billion riyals (\$500 million) were coming from oil sales.

Saudi Arabia has been driving to diversify its economy to reduce its dependence on oil exports.

Fahd, announcing ratification of the budget, said the kingdom's share of oil market, as specified in the new Opec production quota beginning Jan 1, stands at 5.38 million barrels a day.

Information Minister Ali Al Shahr highlighted the recently raised estimates of the kingdom's crude reserves to 255 billion barrels, in addition to large quantities of natural gas.

"We have discovered the sweet light oil for the first time in the history of the kingdom in new areas," he said.

Saudi Arabia now participates in ownership of three refineries and 10 fuel distribution stations abroad.

The budget statement said the economy continued to grow for the third straight year. The oil-oil gross domestic product figure registered a growth of 4.6 per cent compared to 1.9 per cent in 1988.

It said private sector growth was 4.4 per cent in 1989 against 2.8 per cent in 1988, while agriculture rose by 11.3 per cent and industry by 10.4 per cent.

The kingdom is a major arms purchaser, and the defence sector, which includes purchases as

well as development projects and administrative spending, was listed at 51.8 billion riyals (\$13.8 billion).

No figure was cited last year and in 1988 defence spending was pegged at 50 billion riyals (\$13.3 billion).

Fahd said the new budget provides for 26,225 new military jobs and 20,000 new civilian jobs, including 4,400 in education alone.

Last year, the government employed more than 20,000 people, including 8,200 university graduates. The Saudis are driving to create an estimated half-million jobs over the next five years, many of them in the private sector, to cope with population growth.

The monarch stressed that the five-year plan will concentrate on developing human resources and envisaged a greater role for the private sector.

Roughly one third of the budget will be allocated for investment spending.

Fahd said the budget provides for government tenders worth 9.36 billion riyals (\$2.4 billion) to implement 157 projects, apart from 49.4 billion riyals (\$13.2 billion) on investment spending.

The last five-year plan was evaluated at 1,000 billion riyals (\$375 billion), but a large part of it was believed to have gone unrealised because of the oil price slump.

Morocco appeals for help

Oil slick

RABAT, Jan 1. (Reuters): Morocco appealed yesterday for help in fighting a giant oil slick being blown towards rich fishing grounds off its Atlantic coast from a stricken Iranian supertanker.

A spokesman for the Casablanca Port Authority said the Kharg-5, drifting unmanned since fire broke out on board 12 days ago, was thought to have spilled 27,000 tonnes of its 284,000-tonne crude cargo.

Port authorities said the slick stretched 280 km (175 miles) and more oil was pouring from the tanker as ocean currents pushed it south about 100 miles off the Sardinia fishing port of Saffi.

The official news agency Map said Morocco had appealed for international help to have the tanker towed to at least 300 miles further from its coast.

It said France, Spain, Britain and Portugal had been asked to send experts to avert an ecological disaster and French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau had agreed to help.

The Spanish vessel Pinta Salenas was on the scene with 25,000 litres of chemicals to disperse the slick and Morocco had ordered another 40,000 litres of similar products.

Map said the Moroccan navy was on alert and anti-pollution centres were being set up in the Atlantic ports of Casablanca, Jorf Lasfar, Oualidia and Saffi.

Despite dire predictions of a recession

Stocks turn in rousing performance

NEW YORK, Jan 1. (Reuters): All in all, 1989 was a surprisingly good year for the stock market.

Despite dire predictions of a recession, a few nasty spills in the takeover arena, sluggish corporate profits and the October 13 mini-crash, blue chip stocks advanced 27.0 per cent this year, dwarfing last year's 11.8 per cent rise.

And while 1990 promises further opportunities for gains, particularly with the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, analysts said weak corporate profits, a soft US economy and fears about high-yield debt may lead to some rough patches.

"This has been an unusually good year," said James Kalil Sr., president of Computrol Investments Inc. Equity mutual funds, an increasingly popular form of retail investment, advanced 22.68 per cent in the first 11 months of 1989, up from 14.44 per cent for all of 1988.

The Standard and Poor's 500 index rose about 26 per cent this year, after climbing 12.4 per cent in 1988, and it advanced 5.98 points in the week to close at 353.40 on Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, the key stock market barometer, has performed better only in 10 other years since 1925. It ended 20.90 points higher at 2,753.20 on Friday, a gain of \$84.63 for the year.

For the week, the Dow finished up 41.81 points, a 1.5 per cent gain.

Most predictions call for the Dow to reach 3,000 in 1990. Still, life on the street was far from rosy in 1989. Hugh Johnson, first Albany Corp's chief investment officer, said

the most significant stock market development in 1989 was "the move from a period of speculation to a period of financial distress."

"It was signalled by the problems that the junk bond market had started to get into. We woke up one morning and companies were having problems making debt payments," he said.

Worries about the rising debt load of US companies crystallised when United Airlines' parent, UAL Corp, said on October 13 that it was having trouble getting buyout financing.

Less than a week before the two-year anniversary of the October 19 crash, when the Dow lost a record 508 points, the blue-chip index dropped 190.58 points, scaring away small investors who were just returning to the market. Several analysts point to the October 13 mini-crash as the most important event of this year.

Cesar Jay Scaple, director of technical research at Gruntal and Co, said this year's October tumble brought back grim memories of Black Monday. "There was the re-entry of index arbitrage, which we thought had quieted down."

Index arbitrage, a form of programme trading used to capture spreads between stock index futures and the underlying issues, is expected to continue in 1990 because analysts do not believe Congress or regulators are moving to curtail it.

A weakening economy should provide the backdrop for continued softer corporate profits in 1990.

Oman raises budget expenditure

MUSCAT, Oman, Jan 1. (AP): The sultanate today issued a spending budget for 1990 of 1,747 million rials (\$4.5 billion), reflecting an 8 per cent increase over last year because of an improvement in the world oil market.

But the Deputy Premier for Financial and Economic Affairs, Qais Abdul-Moneim Al Zawawi, said that government expenditure still had to be streamlined as much as possible because it was difficult to ascertain whether the oil market would continue its upward trend.



"Although the oil market has witnessed a marked improvement in the second half of 1989, yet in view of fluctuations of the past year it is difficult to forecast stability, and this calls for cautiousness and continued

streamlining and adapting expenditure without affecting performance," Al Zawawi said in a statement distributed by the official Oman News Agency.

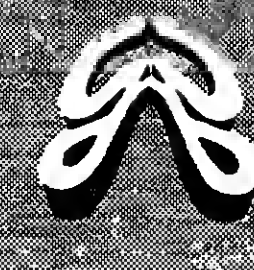
Oman is not a member of Opec, but oil exports are its main source of revenue. Like the other oil exporters, it has sustained budget deficits since the price of oil slumped on the world market in the early 1980s.

With revenue projected for 1990 at 1,433 million rials (\$3.7 billion), the sultanate is left with a budget deficit of 314 million rials (\$815 million).

The deficit projected for the Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1989 budget was 400 million rials (\$1.04 billion), but the final estimate have yet to be made.

The maiden public issue from the House of Godrej



ATTENTION NRI'S

Gujarat-Godrej Innovative Chemicals Ltd has been promoted by the Rs. 800 crore Godrej Group and Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation Ltd. (GIIC) to manufacture 35,000 tons of Alpha olefin, a vital import substitute, for the first time in India.

The Rs. 109 crore project will have its plant located just 23 kms away from Ankleshwar in the Bharuch District of Gujarat and will manufacture Alpha olefin using a process developed in-house by Dr. B.P. Godrej and his team, using vegetable oil. This process is unique and has been patented by Godrej in many countries around the world.

Alpha olefin, when sulphated, enjoys a tremendous demand from different industries—the Rs. 3000 crore soap, detergent and toiletries industries as well as polymers, leather, textiles, oil-drilling, mining, etc. For Godrej the project is a backward integration as the Group is a large consumer of Alpha olefin.

The imported plant and machinery is being supplied by Lurgi GmbH, West Germany, one of the world's largest process engineering companies with a turnover of over Rs. 1500 crore per annum. Lurgi who has been associated with Godrej for many years will also provide performance guarantees. The Company is well established in India and has set up more than 75 plants for leading organisations in the country including Godrej.

And now, to part finance the project, Gujarat-Godrej Innovative Chemicals Ltd. is making a Public Issue of 21,00,000 — 12.5% Secured Redeemable Partly Convertible Debentures of Rs. 150 each for cash at par or which 4,00,000 Convertible Debentures are reserved for preferential allotment to Non-Resident Indians/Persons of Indian origin residing abroad on repatriation basis.


Each Convertible Debenture will be issued in 3 parts and converted as follows: Part A of Rs. 50 into 5 shares of Rs. 10 each at par on allotment and Part B of Rs. 50 into 5 shares of Rs. 10 each at par on March 31, 1991. Part C of Rs. 50 will be redeemed in two equal instalments at the expiry of the 8th and 9th year from the date of allotment.

Yes, this is it. Your chance to participate in the success of this potential new venture and in the first public issue from the House of Godrej!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Strong promoters — The Godrej Group and GIIC
- Import substitution project to manufacture Alpha olefin
- Tremendous demand for Alpha olefin from the rapidly-growing soap and detergent industry
- Backward integration project for the Godrej Group as GIIC's products will enjoy an excellent captive demand.
- Technical collaboration with Lurgi GmbH, West Germany, one of the world's largest process engineering companies with a turnover exceeding Rs. 1500 crore per annum
- Two-third of the face value of each convertible debenture will be converted into Equity Shares AT PAR.
- Project to enjoy Sales-Tax benefits under the "Pioneer Unit Scheme" of Government of Gujarat
- 80CC and Wealth-Tax benefits
- Listing on the Ahmedabad, Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta Stock Exchanges

Issue opens on:
For NRI's — 9th January, 1990
For Indian Public
10th January, 1990



GUJARAT-GODREJ Innovative Chemicals Ltd.
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BUSINESS

Economic team may not shift debt policy

MANILA, Jan 1, (Reuters): The new Philippine economic team named by President Corason Aquino yesterday are experienced bankers expected to continue the conservative approach on paying the country's \$27-billion foreign debt, analysts said.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao is a 49-year-old bachelor whom Aquino appointed last August to head the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The new Central Bank Governor, Jose Cuisia, was chief of the social security system and joined the Philippine debt panel that negotiates with the country's creditors when former finance secretary Vicente Jayme had heart surgery in Houston.

Western bankers and Philippine economists said they did not expect any shift in Manila's cautious debt policy, with Jayme still acting as overall co-ordinator on economic issues for Aquino.

Jayme left the finance portfolio after being named on Sunday by Aquino as presidential co-ordinator for finance and economic affairs. Fernandez is scheduled to resign on Jan 20 to retire.

The two men successfully negotiated in 1989 new financing arrangements with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and rescheduled loans with the country's Paris Club creditors.

They also reached an agreement with commercial bank creditors in New York in October 1989 on a debt buy-back plan that will cut Philippine commercial debt.

Ben Ali raises minimum wage.

TUNIS, Jan 1, (Reuters): President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali raised Tunisia's minimum wage by about 10 per cent yesterday and said the government would pursue its plan for consultations with the opposition despite opposition reservations.

In a New Year address, Ben Ali said the minimum wage would rise 10 dinars (\$11) a month for non-agricultural workers and nine dinars (\$10) for agricultural workers.

Minimum wages in force since April 1988 were about 80 dinars (\$88) for agricultural workers, 110 dinars (\$120) a month for other workers who do a 48-hour week and 96 dinars (\$107) for those who do a 40-hour week.

He said this was the most the government could offer given the limited means at its disposal.

Ben Ali said it was unfortunate that some political parties had not understood him last November when he invited them to join a national pact council to discuss the laws regulating political life in Tunisia.

Most of the six recognised opposition parties, which have no seats in parliament, set tough conditions for taking part, such as a government commitment to reform the electoral code and to give them a vote on state-controlled radio and television.

But Ben Ali said the government had decided to call a meeting of the council anyway under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmed Karoui. He gave no date.

Kuwait, Jan 1, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants in Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offer
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
1 year	8-1/4	8-1/2

Africa plans second decade of industrialisation

Top priority after food self-sufficiency

NAIROBI, Jan 1, (Reuters): Africa, battling to turn a long cherished dream into reality, plans a fresh drive in the 1990s towards industrialisation.

As independence began to sweep Africa from 1957 most governments pinned their hopes for future prosperity on industrialisation.

But that goal has proved elusive on a continent mired in poverty and whose people, the World Bank says, are almost as poor now as they were 30 years ago.

Disappointed with initial efforts to realise their dream, African leaders declared the 1980s a decade of industrial development, making this top priority after food self-sufficiency.

Yet as other parts of the world advanced to the threshold of a new technological age, Africa suffered severe setbacks.

"De-industrialisation has proceeded on an unprecedented scale," declared Adebayo Adedeji, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as the 1980s drew to a close.

"The political will to industrialise has yet to be matched by concerted measures to mobilise local and international financial resources for the industrial sector," said a 1989 review by the OAU, the ECA and the UN Industrial Development Organisation (Unido).

Undeterred, African leaders at their final summit of the 1980s last July declared the 1990s a second industrial development decade as they try to revive economies sapped by crushing foreign debt, depressed world prices for vital commodity exports, rapid population growth, drought and civil strife.

"The meagre resources available to most African countries originally meant for development programmes such as the (1980s industrial) decade have had to be diverted to emergency measures from economic survival," said the OAU-ECA-Unido report.

It said investment in manufacturing was running below one-fifth of total investment

and, illustrating the challenge ahead, quoted estimates indicating that some \$140 billion in new investment is needed for "priority" projects alone.

This excludes resources needed to rehabilitate existing plant and finance technical aid, for which it gave no estimate.

The World Bank, in a report published in November, agreed that economic setbacks had undermined Africa's industrial ambitions, but said it had become increasingly evident that earlier efforts focused on state-led creation of capacity without regard to cost of markets.

"The result was highly inefficient industrialisation, heavily subsidised by consumers and taxpayers," it added.

Although manufacturing grew 11 per cent a year from 1980 to 1986 in China and India and five per cent in other low income economies, it was virtually stagnant in sub-Saharan Africa where its share of domestic product — at one-tenth — was barely higher than in 1965.

Only three countries — Mexico, the Philippines and Costa Rica — have reached agreement in principle with their foreign bank creditors to tighten their debt burdens, and none of those accords has been implemented yet.

"However," the bank added, "it would not be realistic to expect that the new strategy, by itself, can rapidly solve the debt problem of all severely indebted countries."

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Rural bank takes economic reform to Bangladesh villages

MOGRAPARA, Bangladesh, Jan 1, (Reuters): Safura Begum starts her day early to finish household work before the sun is up and get her children ready for school. Then, along with her neighbours, she awaits an "every-morning" visit from her bank manager.

He arrives with a smile and asks if the boys have new books or the girl has recovered from illness. Any discussion about banking comes much later.

"This is how we operate," said Arshad Alam, the manager of Mograpara branch of the Grameen Bank.

"By the time the villagers had finished their breakfast I have trekked six or seven miles to get to them," he says. Alam, talking to Reuters at his office 40 km (25 miles) from Dhaka, compares the role of a Grameen bank official with that of a rural schoolteacher who sets out every morning to check on pupils.

"We talk hygiene, education, agriculture and domestic problems before getting down to business," he says. "And this trick has so far proved highly successful."

The idea for the Grameen (rural) Bank was conceived by Dr Mohammad Yunus, a professor of economics at Chittagong University who said it was his dream to revolutionise Bangladesh's rural economy.

The Magsaysay award-winning economist set up the first branch of the Grameen Bank on an experimental basis in 1976 not far from his place of work.

Most villagers, who account for 85 per cent of Bangladesh's 100 million people, live in dire poverty. The country's annual per capita income is only \$170.

Villagers told Yunus they had no money to save with conventional banks nor had they any idea of earning interest.

So Yunus thought of a bank with a difference that would provide the landless and mostly illiterate women with credit facilities from funds he borrowed from a local bank.

Since then the Grameen Bank has come a long way. Its present clientele numbers more than 630,000 people in 14,310 villages, registered with 632 branches.

After initial successes, funding came from the Bangladesh Central Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other sources.

The bank has so far lent \$160 million and received back more than 130 million. "The rate of (loan) recovery is spectacularly high compared with other banks," Alam said.

Before granting loans to individuals, the bank forms borrower groups each with five villagers and gives them mandatory training for two weeks.

The first loans, for a maximum of 10,000 taka (\$320) each, go to two group members. If they repay the loans regularly, two more come on the list. And after a month or so, the fifth member, who is the group's chairman, gets credit.

Borrowers are free to use the loans to buy cattle, build a house or start a small business. But they must repay the loans, with interest, within a year by weekly instalments before another loan is granted.

More than 75 per cent of the bank's shares is owned by the landless members and the rest is retained by the government.

Borrowers' savings account for 10 per cent of the total loans disbursed.

The bank has started a savings scheme for children. The money is used for hiring teachers for them and buying books and clothes.

The bank also operates a social development programme called "Sixteen decisions" that helps motivate members with discipline, unity and hard work to improve their living standards.

To improve standards of health, all bank members must have sanitary latrines at their homes. Any house built with a bank loan must stand on concrete pillars, supplied by the bank from its own plant, to withstand floor or cyclone.

"Banking is not our primary goal. We want to change every aspect of an individual's life," Alam said.

"Now we look forward to a golden future," said borrower Ahmad Husain.

To make it easier for the borrowers, bank officials go from door to door to collect the repayments. "People feel greatly encouraged by such gestures," Alam said.

The bank now operates in 38 of Bangladesh's 68 districts and hopes to open branches all over the country by 1995.

"The Grameen Bank has shattered the idea of traditional banking," Alam said.

Many Asian and African countries are now trying out such projects, he added.

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Manufacturing sectors expected to lead economic growth GCC urged to map industrial strategy

THE challenge facing industrial development in the Gulf region during the 1990s is the ability to produce and sell competitively, both in the domestic markets as well as abroad. The highly concentrated development effort of the region's public sectors to build large scale industrial schemes and the comparable hydrocarbon resources of the Gulf countries are leading to the creation of similar industrial bases. This would reduce the scope for regional trade and may increase considerably the risk of competition in the export markets, whether within the region or outside it.

The GCC countries need, therefore, to come up with a coherent industrial strategy for the region as a whole, that eliminates duplication, promotes complementary industrial projects and creates inter-industry and inter-country linkages. This does not only help expand the size of the domestic market but also create forward and backward linkages so that investments in one industry would make investments in other more profitable, according to the GIB financial report.

There are several barriers to rapid industrial development in the region that need to be addressed. These include the high cost of imported intermediate products, the small size of the local market, lack of industrial management expertise and technical skills among the national population, the ineffectiveness of existing marketing system, unavailability of the necessary information base and adequate research on technological advancement, and the openness of the Gulf markets given the limited protection offered by the tariff system.

There are as well various bureaucratic constraints, limited commercial bank lending to industrial projects and incomplete industrial legal codes.

GIB economist Henry Azzam said another constraint has been the limited entrepreneurial vigour of the region's private sectors. Gulf businessmen have been geared both psychologically and economically toward trade and services activities, where profits are easy and returns substantial and quick. This attitude has had a negative impact up till now on the expansion of the industrial sector. Private entrepreneurship has been, to a larger extent, shying away from industrial activities which involve more risks and long gestation periods for profitability.

Set against these constraints, industry in the Gulf has the benefits of a skilled, non-unionized imported labour force, wide ranging industrial incentives and subsidies, political stability and reasonably consistent government industrial policies and regulations. The region has as well ample capital resources, no exchange control, and state of the art infrastructural facilities including ports, airports, hotels, roads and telecommunications. Furthermore, industry and all other parts of the Gulf economy have the benefit of the region's enormous contact with the outside world and its receptiveness to modern business ideas.

Most important of all in recent years has been the advantage that all sectors have gained from a fall in the cost of labour, especially at the bottom end of the market, and the drop in rents and real estate prices to more reasonable levels. To some extent there is now industrial service back-up available in the region, including distribution operations, advertising agencies, maintenance and specialist transport companies.

It is only very recently that Gulf businessmen have come to appreciate that they can profitably do business other than contracting, real estate, importing, money exchanging, service related activities and small manufacturing associated with oil construction.

There are many niches in the Gulf markets that have not yet been filled and where investments move prove quite profitable.



Henry Azzam

hile in the next decade. Any product which fills a local need (import substitution) or can be exported and does not require long term subsidies and protection to become commercially viable may be considered.

The comparative advantage of the region as a manufacturing base lies in the availability of cheap energy and the low priced local feedstock produced from petrochemicals and natural gas plants. There exists as well a growing market for consumer products with a total population in the Gulf of 16 million and with a per capita purchasing power among the highest in the world.

From the point of view of foreign companies, the fast growth in revenues, and social and economic changes that followed mean that the Gulf states should no longer be thought of purely as a consuming market.

They are becoming more like other markets in which companies might be involved as investors or joint venture partners in manufacturing or service operations. Conceivably companies might see the region as a manufacturing base from which they would export products to other Arab countries, Iran, the Indian sub-continent or even to Europe.

Azzam said the manufacturing sectors are expected to lead economic growth of the Gulf region during the 1990s. Industrialization is given a prime importance in the development strategy of the coming decade, with the private sector being called upon to play a pivotal role in this respect. Even though the percentage contribution of oil to GDP has been decreasing in all the Gulf countries, the region is still considered over-dependent on its hydrocarbon resources.

Economic diversification will be pursued more forcefully to reduce the impact of fluctuations in world oil prices in the economies of the Gulf. By strengthening the manufacturing base, the Gulf countries will be well positioned to sustain an internal momentum of growth in the 1990s.

With the completion of the region's major infrastructural projects, construction sectors are not expected to exhibit simple growth in the years ahead. These sectors are currently suffering from conditions of excess supply and large projects are over-dependent on government expenditures.

The contribution of construction sectors to GDP has been trending downward in the last few years, reaching an average of 9.7 per cent in 1987.

Re-orientation of the economy from public sector based growth to private sector initiative will limit future growth prospects of Gulf construction activities.

The future growth potentials of the agricultural sector are also limited given the high rate of depletion of the mainly underground water resources of the region. With the exception of Saudi Arabia where the agricultural sector showed remarkable growth over the last few years (the contribution of this sector to the Kingdom's GDP rose from 5.7 per cent in 1984 to 6.6 per cent in 1987 and 7.5 per cent in 1988), the contribution of agriculture to economic activities in the other Gulf countries has been very low, around 3.5 per cent in Oman and less than 1.5 per cent elsewhere. Even in Saudi Arabia, the growth of the agricultural sector was

attained through massive government subsidies. This suggests slower growth in the years ahead as these subsidies are reduced, now that the sector has achieved the strategic aim of securing certain food supplies.

The services sectors which have contributed an average of 46.8 per cent to the regions' GDP cannot lead the development process on their own. Activities here have been financed mostly by government expenditures derived from oil revenues, and growth in these sectors will depend on the overall economic thrust of the region.

This leaves the industrial sector as the best viable option that has growth momentum of its own. According to a survey conducted by Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), the six GCC states have at present 5,405 factories and industrial plants including 2,431 in Saudi Arabia, 979 in Kuwait, 647 in the UAE, 550 in Oman, 416 in Bahrain and 421 in Qatar.

He said that the contribution of manufacturing sectors to the region's GDP rose from around 4.8 per cent in 1975 to 5.5 per cent in 1980 and 9.0 per cent in 1987, and it is targeted to reach 15 per cent in mid 1990s. The highest percentage is in Kuwait with around 13.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product being generated in the manufacturing and refining industries.

Followed by Bahrain (12.3 per cent), Qatar (9.9 per cent), and UAE (9.4 per cent). The industrial sector's output to total GDP of Saudi Arabia increased from 5 per cent in 1980 to around 8.3 per cent in 1987. The lowest percentage of industrial sector output to GDP has been in Oman, close to 3.7 per cent in 1987.

However, Oman recorded the highest annual growth rate in industrial production for the period 1980-1987 of close to 40 per cent. In 1988, output generated in the manufacturing, water and electricity sectors of the six Gulf states stood at \$65 billion.

Another indicator of growth in the industrial sector activities in Saudi Arabia is based on surveys conducted during the past four years by the Kingdom's International Information & Trading Services Company. The survey analyses the total sales of the top 100 Saudi companies by various economic sectors.

The increase in sales of manufacturing enterprises in 1988 was 31.72 per cent higher than the year before compared to an increase of 98.4 per cent in 1987 and 7.4 per cent in 1986. The manufacturing sector recorded the second highest increase in 1988 following the 71 per cent increase in total sales of companies operating in the trading sector. The strong performance of the trading sector is attributed to the fact that several new companies have reached the top 100 in 1988.

The significant decrease of 50 per cent in contracting in 1988 is due primarily to the completion of major infrastructural projects in the Kingdom. The increase in the finance sector by 12.4 per cent and in services by 25 per cent confirm the upward trend in the market activities in these sectors. The other sectors do not contribute to a significant percentage in the overall picture of the top 100 market and have been more or less static. It must be emphasised however, that the foregoing is only an evaluation of the progress and performance made by the top 100 companies and is not a reflection of the Saudi economy as a whole.

There is still ample scope for the development of new industrial ventures in the GCC region that enjoy a comparative advantage at the present time or in the foreseeable future. In the several studies carried out in the last few years by the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting, Gulf Investment Co-operation, and various government funds and industrial banks one has come across very few sectors where industrial output was capable of supplying the bulk of the local market.

The scope for new manufacturing activities is broadening all the time as a result of new linkages established and new technologies and services introduced, e.g. between maintenance and spare parts manufacturing, between agriculture and food processing and between operations and other complementary services.

The growing consumer markets offer unique opportunities to establish light industries and the population requirements of the forthcoming decade would greatly increase the demand for processed industries in the region. Tentatively the following areas are identified:

BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BEETLEBAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



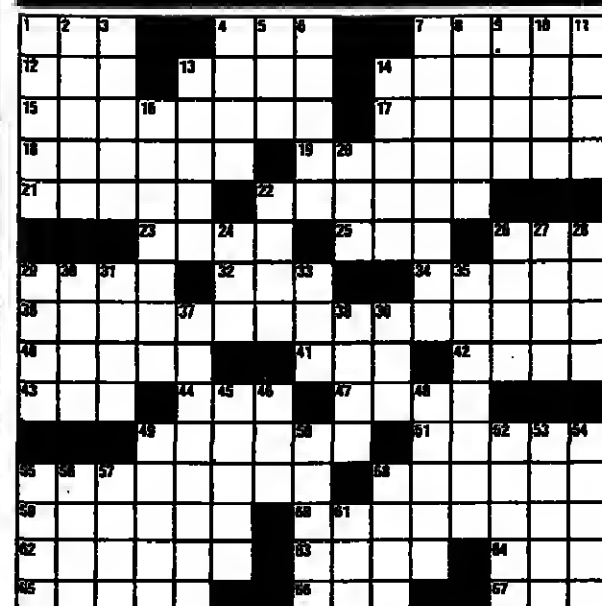
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Chum
 - Mal Torme, the Velvet
 - "Glant" ranch
 - "A Chorus Line" tune
 - Cat's comment
 - Wine or root
 - Bogart flick of 1948
 - Each
 - Shows up
 - Safety devices
 - Meat order
 - European polecat
 - Sari wearer
 - Clergyman, for short
 - Sheepish complaint
 - See 21 Across
 - Actress Lupino
 - "Got Nobody"
 - Very sofa
 - Shoe material
 - Summar acquisition
 - Morning moistures
 - Literary monogram
 - Beams or Burrows
 - Emulate a steno
 - Maager
 - "... that will live in Infamy": FDR
 - Door opener
 - Insight
 - Punish, in Darmstadt
 - City near Buffalo
 - Photographer's gadget
 - Boole-boole boys
 - Red letters?
- DOWN
- More like Solomon
 - A Barber
 - Mystery writer Josephina
 - Jabs
 - Concerning
 - Philippine island
 - Sables
 - Part of OAS
 - Feel for
 - Give ball for: Law
 - Part of
 - 43 Across
 - Guinness
 - Bulletin board item
 - Bellicose god
 - Eskimo garment
 - Framework
 - Erudite
 - Airline abbr.
 - Rover's friend
 - Zero
 - Two-wheeler
 - Over again
 - Lully opera
 - "... for Life": 1956 film
 - Burden
 - French brainstorm
 - Play part
 - Made sense
 - "... the Sky": 1956 film
 - K-K-K girl
 - "Have you — wool?"
 - Alaska lead-in
 - Compass point
 - Gets ready to travel
 - Sea or land follower
 - Author Anne
 - "It's — Unusual Day": 1948 song
 - Succinct
 - Swavey
 - WW II landing craft
 - Black, to Calpurnia
 - Meth. branch
 - Kind of test
 - Violinist Bull

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

WONT HUMOR WRAP
HAIR ATONE RILL
ETNA SATIN INTO
THANKS HOOSEGOW
SALE NUTS
CARELESS NATANT
AGAPE TALCS SIR
SLIT MELEE ASTA
EOS CARVE ALARM
SWEDEN OOOITIES
ALOA SIDE
MISSTATE VERSED
AMAH TORTIE ALSO
MARE ELIAS NOSE
AMIR SLEET TEES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ONE FOR THE DEVIL

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 6 3
♥ Q 9 3 2
♦ A Q
♣ 10 8 7

WEST
♠ 5 2
♥ 7 5
♦ K 10 9 8 7 6 5
♣ Q 5

EAST
♠ Q 10 7
♥ J 10 6 4
♦ J 4 3 2
♣ J 6

SOUTH
♠ A 9 8 4
♥ A K 8
♦ Void
♣ A K 9 4 3 2

The bidding:
West North East South
3 ♦ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass 4 ♦ Pass 5 ♠
Pass 6 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

With this first column of the New Year, we would like to wish all our readers health and happiness. However, that is not what West had on his mind when defending this hand from the recent Fall North American Championships.

If you think that West's hand is rather feeble for a vulnerable pre-

empt, we assure you that you are not alone. However, many tournament bridge aficionados believe it is more blessed to interfere with the opponents' auction than to worry about constructive bidding of their own; hence West's action. When North cue-bid in response to South's takeout double, South elected to jump in his weaker suit since North rated to have four cards in each major for his cue-bid. The final contract of six spades was excellent.

Left to his own devices, declarer would certainly have romped home, since the only way to play the club suit is to cash the ace and king, with gratifying results. Declarer's only loser would have been a trump.

When Michael Cappelletti of Washington, D.C., held the West cards, he opted for the devilish lead of the five of clubs. Declarer captured East's jack with the king and out unnaturally presumed West had led a singleton club. After cashing the ace of trumps and taking a losing finesse, declarer won the heart return and drew the last trump ending in dummy. He then ran the ten of clubs—down one.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 19

Not everything will be quite to your liking but you will be able to make the most of those things that are. Do not give up learning because it is proving rather more difficult than you expected — persevere. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be bold but circumspect.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will have to take the rough with the smooth and you should not make too much fuss about it. Make sure you do not neglect your health. Show your partner your love and affection. Be moderate.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You should not allow your emotions to get out of hand but you should bottle them up. You should concentrate only on what is interesting but also on what has to be done. A friend will appreciate your help and sympathy. Be reliable.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

Show a little more interest in what interests others. However, do not allow yourself to be led astray. Make sure you eat moderately before you end up with a weight problem. Be attentive.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Never mind if you are not the first to finish — if you have done your best you can be satisfied. Avoid extravagance but equally avoid meanness. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 37. You have a lot to do so try to make the best use of the time available. Be sincere.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

Something you have not done for a long time will again become possible. Do not take too much for granted. Avoid showing off and do not take the credit for what you have not done. Be careful.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Do not expect to be loved for yourself alone. If you do you may well be alone. You should keep your wits very much about you, and watch out for those who wish to deceive you. Be consistent.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

Make sure you are not late for an appointment. Avoid behaving as though most others were beneath your dignity. And do not take too much for granted. Be more methodical.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will be tempted to delay paying your bills: do not succumb. Avoid eating too many sweet or savoury foods. Take just a little more exercise. Be considerate.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

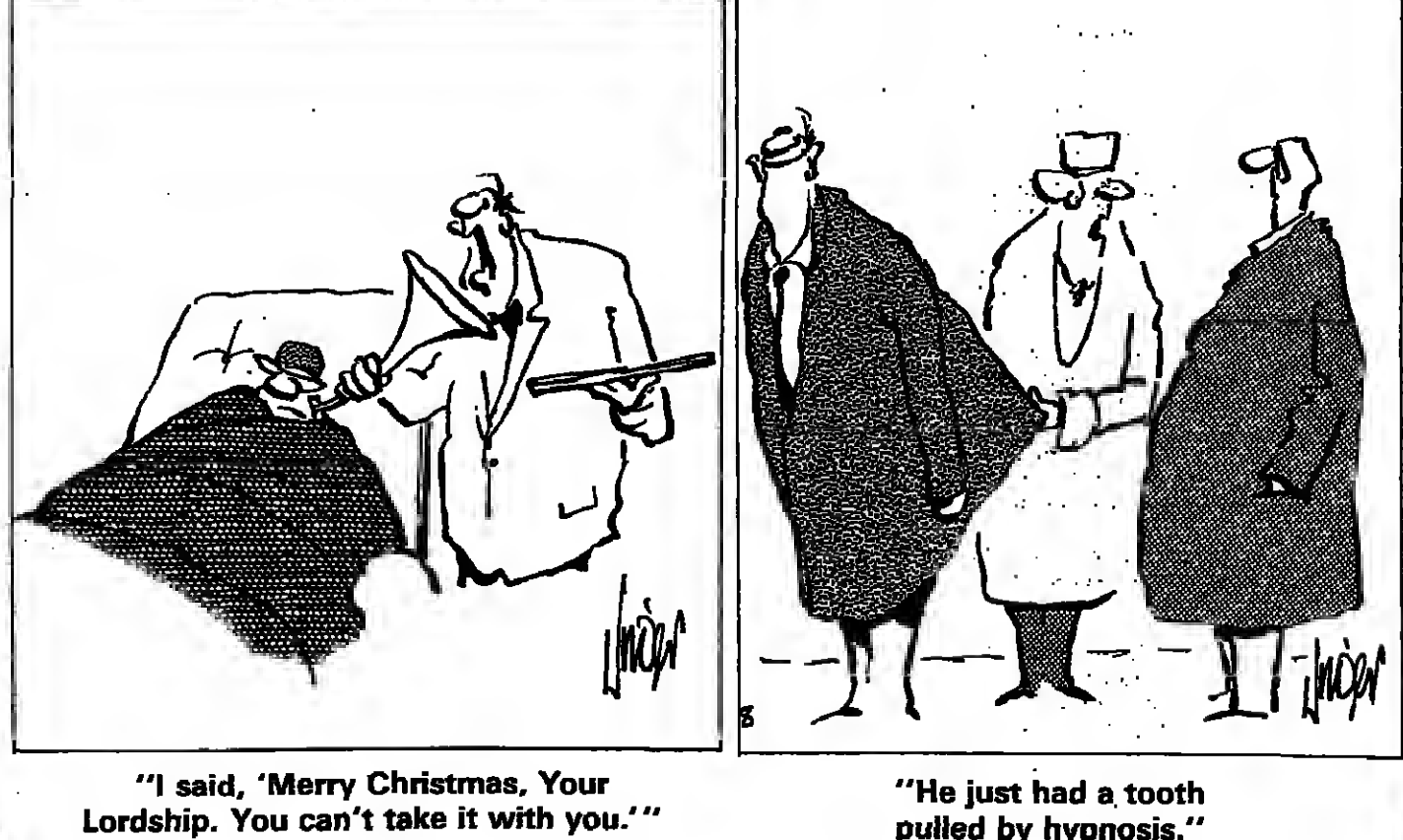
You should not use force where persuasion has not succeeded. There is a likelihood towards unjustified jealousy, resist it. You have no time to waste or energy to spare. Be sensible.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You should avoid the temptation to do something you know well you should not do. A small infection like a cold should not be neglected. Do not try to have everything your own way. If you do you will not succeed. Be moderate.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

Do not get angry if a problem defies you: just try again calmly. Try to look on the positive side and think more about what you have than about what you have not. Do not postpone what should be done now. Be tactful.



JUNIOR TIMES

Happy birthday



Archana Kutty turned 2 on January 1



A.M. Firdos turned 1 on December 31



Mohammed Imad Uddin turned 1 on December 31



Shaun Rodrigues on December 27



Ranjit Rajan turned 6 on January 1



Mercy Joseph turned 3 on December 28



Ryan D'Souza turns 6 on January 3



Viben Vijay turned 6 on January 1



Ashley Francis turned 6 on January 1

Funny faces

Look carefully at these faces. Which one matches the profile?



1



2



3



4

Young artist

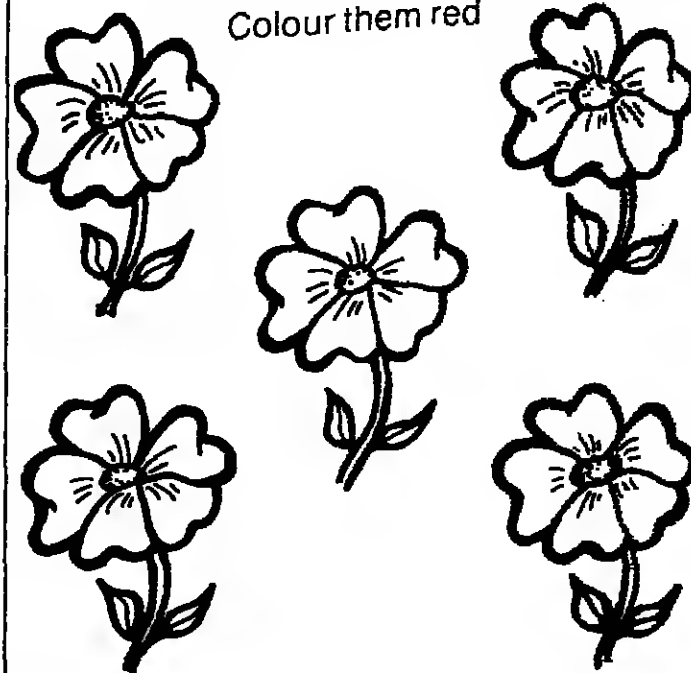


happy New Year

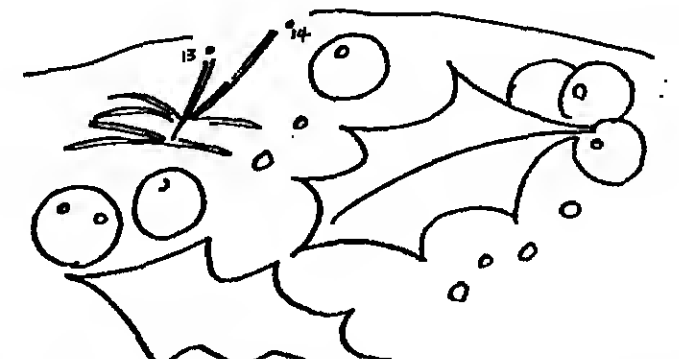
By Dhina T. Nain

How many flowers can you see?

Colour them red



Dot-to-dot



Variety

English as medium of instruction ignites Dutch fears

THE HAGUE (Reuters): Two months after taking office, Dutch Education Minister Jo Ritzen has ignited national passions by urging Dutch universities to switch to English as the main language of instruction.

The idea has roused the usually placid Dutch to a rare display of injured patriotic pride, underscoring growing fears that European Economic Community integration in 1992 will bring the death of national culture in the Netherlands.

"Ritzen kills Dutch language," wrote Trouw newspaper, putting the headline in English to drive the point home.

One columnist derided Ritzen as a "Euro-yuppie" who would be unceremoniously booted from his post for his suggestion in a more culturally proud country like France.

The controversy over English comes on the heels

of another cultural debate sparked by Ritzen. He has contended that the Dutch and their traditional culture will soon be overrun due to a stream of immigrants from developing nations.

Although his remarks were meant to stress that the Netherlands must be prepared for a more heterogeneous future, critics have accused him of needlessly fuelling Dutch fears of cultural extinction.

Many intellectuals are already worried that EEC social harmonisation will force the Netherlands to end a generous government grant system to Dutch artists and oblige them to compete with other EEC citizens for the funds.

"One can easily get the feeling that the dike of culture in our fatherland is about to be hurled without any Hans Brinker to stop the flow by putting his finger in the hole," wrote Volkskrant columnist

Willems Kuipers.

It is the debate over English that has most touched a raw nerve among the Dutch.

"The reason that the reaction to Ritzen's fairly rational suggestion has been so emotional is that the Dutch feel their culture is already under threat," Leiden University sociologist Godfried Engbersoo told Reuters.

Most Dutch universities flatly rejected Ritzen's suggestion that teaching in English would bring an influx of European Economic Community students to the Netherlands and parliamentarians scrambled to demand he explain his idea.

"It would behead the Dutch language," said Aad Nuis of the centre-left D'66 Party who has led the anti-English reaction in Parliament.

"Our neighbours already think that Dutch is worthless gibberish, a language in which nothing

can be beautifully said. If Dutch is not spoken on an academic level, this would only be confirmed," added Nuis, a well-known literary critic.

Actually, two Dutch universities — the elite privately-run Netherlands School of Business in Nijmegen and the Agricultural University of Wageningen — are already switching to English and most other major Dutch universities have some programmes in English for foreigners.

Moreover, most Dutch speak English well and many know at least one other foreign language.

Academics have been quick to admit that knowing English is crucial to participating in an international intellectual community and some have urged graduate students be examined for their fluency. But almost all reject Ritzen's idea.

"Foreign students usually come here for a few months, as part of an exchange programme.

Info reform sparked

Business made better by fax

TOKYO (Reuters): Once used mainly to transmit weather maps and news, facsimile machines are now making business better and faster.

Fax technology has improved in the past 10 years to the point that images can be sent over a standard telephone line in about 20 seconds to any of the world's 10 million machines.

Facsimiles have become a standard tool for business communications. And with prices below \$1,000 the fax is increasingly the tool of political activists and artists, or people too impatient to wait even for fast food.

Japan leads the world in facsimile use and manufacture.

Faxes are particularly convenient for the Japanese because their language uses thousands of characters. Hand-written communications are common, even in business, because typing is so difficult, making telexes ill-suited to communications.

Japan's giant electronics companies have helped develop technologies and standards that make faxes a quick, simple and reliable medium.

Like so many other technologies dominated by Japan, the original invention was made elsewhere. Alexander Bain, a Scotsman, built the first device to send images electronically in 1842 — 34 years before the telephone was invented.

Japanese companies, led by Matsushita Graphic Communications, Ricoh, Canon and NEC, now supply about 95 per cent of the world's fax machines, according to the Communications Industry Association of Japan.

In Japan, where about 40 per cent of them are installed, it has become difficult to do business without one. Some 97 per cent of the firms with 100 or more employees have faxes.

Some taxis in Osaka, western Japan are equipped with faxes, and there are about 35,000 public fax booths in hotels and telephone offices.

Noodle shops, pizza parlours, and even radio stations take orders via fax. "People send illustrations of themselves or Christmas images,

or copies of their business cards. They want to make strong appeal," said a spokeswoman for radio station FM-Japan.

Fax use is growing most rapidly outside Japan, especially in the United States and Western Europe, and US companies are taking the lead in new technologies to link faxes with computers and other equipment.

Dataquest, a market research firm, estimates that 1.4 million faxes have been installed in the United States by the end of last year, a figure that is seen rising to 3.2 million by 1993.

McDonald's, the American fast-food chain, has installed fax machines in some outlets near Wall Street in New York so busy traders can save time by ordering food by fax.

Industry sources estimate Japan will ship 1.2 million fax machines to the European Economic Community this year, more than double last year's level.

British-born artist David Hockney used a fax machine to transmit 144 sections of a giant picture across the Atlantic to a gallery outside Bradford in northern England.

The transmission took place before an audience of hundreds, all invited by fax.

The fax revolution has reached the Soviet Union to the extent that Radio Moscow issues a daily fax bulletin with the latest news, and a roundup of other stories.

Political activists, mainly the popular front movements campaigning for greater autonomy in the Baltic republics, Georgia and elsewhere, use faxes routinely.

Fax machines have proliferated in China where they were used during June's pro-democracy demonstrations as a conduit for news sent from overseas.

Last month Beijing tightened security on fax machines to counter a campaign by the Federation for Democracy in China, a Paris-based exiled opposition group, which tried to flood the country with anti-government propaganda.

"If counter-revolutionary materials are received they must be sealed immediately and handed over to the police," a government order said.

New belly-dancing star

Fifi bares nothing

CAIRO (Reuters): Fifi Abdou is a star of a new style of belly-dancing in Egypt — perhaps best described as post-fundamentalist.

With not even a glimpse of an uncovered belly, she wows newly-weds on to the stage, kisses girlfriends in the audience and plays up the image of a young peasant woman.

One of Cairo's top belly dancers, she has learnt to accommodate the challenge from Muslim fundamentalists, who are almost as bitterly opposed to music and dancing as they are to women appearing skimpily-dressed in public.

At her show in an international hotel there are few traces left of the clichés which sometimes make belly-dancing a motif for the seedier side of the Middle East.

Now the singing is as important as the dancing. And even the belly fails to move sometimes as she performs what Westerners call bell-dancing because of the rhythmic movement of hips and waist. Arabs refer to it simply as oriental dance.

For some, it is a traditional and serious art form and for others a spontaneous celebration of life, properly performed in private among family and friends at birthdays or weddings.

Egyptians say Islamic militants have either recoiled as a threat or at least changed tactics after discovering the unpopularity of trying to stop people singing and dancing.

But their influence, which a few years ago forced belly dancing off Egyptian television screens, has lingered on to produce a more demure style.

"There is no doubt belly dancers would have been affected by the atmosphere of intimidation, even if it was not directed at them," said Egyptian syndicated columnist Ahmed Beha'eddin.

Belly-dancing, once common in backstreet coffee shops, was dealt its first blow by former president Gamal Abdel Nasser. Seeing dancers as a symbol of the decadent monarchy he had just overthrown, Nasser ordered them to be decently dressed.

Then came a new challenge from Islamic militants, who attacked theatres and cinemas from the 1980s and encouraged women's fashion away from

mini-skirts and into veils.

Scenes of belly dancers were cut from films shown on television and are only just beginning to reappear — with the dancers wearing more decent dresses.

Nowadays, few dare to go too far in playing up the erotic side of their dancing. National newspapers said last month one dancer was charged by police for failing to wear proper dress.

The fundamentalist scare seems on the surface to have passed Abdou by. "I never felt in danger here. Every wedding, every festivity needs a belly dancer," she said in an interview.

But she has nevertheless cultivated a style where her dancing is more innocent entertainment and, she says, art.

"I had an artistic feeling when I was young, but I didn't know what it was," she said.

At the interview in her luxury apartment, Abdou gave every impression of a businesswoman — dealing with endless telephone calls and authoritatively issuing commands.

She appeared without make-up and in jeans, showing off her young daughter.

Abdou, who gives her age as 32, made her first concession to Egypt's sensibilities by changing her name to Fifi from Atiyat, "so mama wouldn't recognise me."

She started as a model at the age of 14 and later danced in groups. Now she dances at weddings, works in films and tours nightclubs in international hotels.

At 2.30 in the morning, she strolls into her changing room in a short black skirt, her rollers demurely covered by a headscarf. She has already performed for two hours elsewhere.

Blacked by a 20-piece band, she starts with a traditional belly-dance wearing a green sequined strapless dress with only a thin panel of cloth across the midriff. But out of five dress changes in a two-hour show, this is the most daring.

Newly-wed couples look on, a slight look of annoyance flickering across one girl's face as her husband gives all his attention to the dancer.



Lebanon still alive

Lebanese entertainer Madonna steps over an incense burner as she danced in a New Year's Eve celebration at a night club in West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

The young prince

By Julie Hodgson

ONCE upon a time, there lived a young prince. He lived in a big castle on top of a hill, there were beautiful meadows surrounding the castle, and everyone was happy in the kingdom.

One dark and stormy night, the young prince, after bidding goodnight to the king and queen, went to his bed chamber. The windows on the south wing of the castle were banging, so the prince went to shut them. Just as he was about to shut the shutters, a strange bird flew in. He had never seen such a beautiful bird before, the bird looked very sick, and the young prince being a nature lover, decided to take the bird to his rooms, and see if he could help the poor thing.

He ordered some warm milk from one of his servants and some soft bread. He lay the tiny bird on a soft silk pillow, the bird looked in the prince's

eyes, as if to say thank you. The servant came in with the milk and soft bread, and the young prince tried to feed it.

When the bird had fallen asleep, the young prince looked at the beautiful bird, he was amazed at 13 colours, it had a yellow, gold head, bright blue wings, and an apricot coloured breast. Before the young prince went to sleep, he kissed the tiny bird on its head, then settled himself down.

For three long days the prince cared for the tiny bird, on the fourth day, he thought it was time to let the bird fly to its own kind. He placed the bird on the ledge, to let it fly, but the bird would not fly away, it just stood there staring at him. He thought he saw a tear trickle down its face. The prince went to wipe the teardrop from the bird's face, as soon he did that, she changed into a beautiful lady, her hair was golden, and she wore an apricot and bright blue

gown. Just like when she was a bird, the young prince fell instantly in love with her.

The beautiful young lady had told him that the wicked wizard of Warble, had wanted to marry her, but upon her refusal, he turned her into a bird, and only when someone felt sorry enough for a bird, to wipe away its tears, would the spell be broken. The wizard said no one knew birds had tears, so she would stay as a bird forever.

The prince asked for her hand in marriage, and she accepted straight away. They were married the very next week, the celebrations went on for a long time after. The new princess never again saw the wizard, but she heard that he was so enraged by his spell being broken, and that she married another, he flew into a rage and crashed into a big glacier, and was frozen forever, in time...

Questions you'd like to ask

Why do I feel miserable some days?

Feelings change just like the weather. Many times you may feel sad or angry, but these feelings are not permanent. They come and go, and you can learn to control them. Sometimes you feel sad because you are lonely, or because you are worried about something. You can talk to your friends or a teacher about how you feel.

Does my body have anything to do with how I feel?

Yes, if you have a cold or a headache, you might feel tired or grumpy. If you have been up late at night, you might feel wide awake and full of energy.

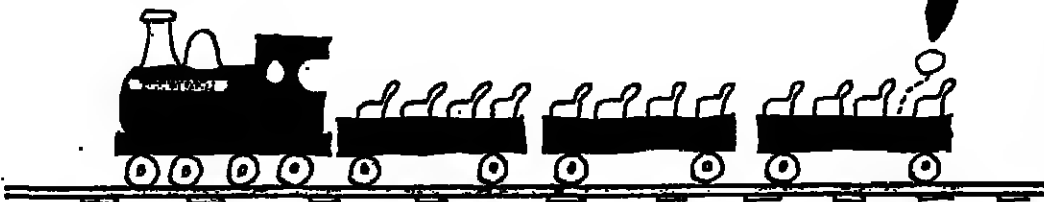
Toy train sum

These get on:



UP TOWN

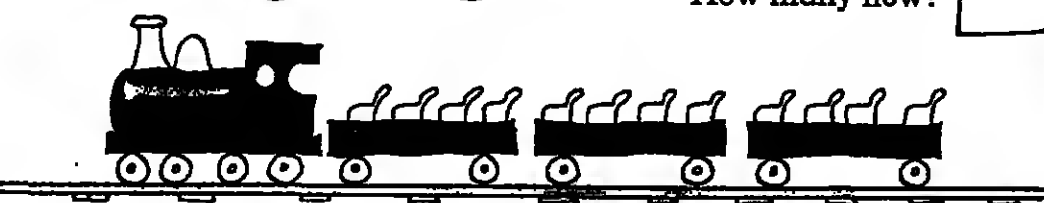
Draw them on the train



Now these get on:



DOWN TOWN



How many?

How many get on?

How many now?

Dear Junior readers,

HAPPY New Year. The eighties have ended, and we have entered a new, fresh decade. Sadly, the year 1989 seemed to be full of rioting and death, especially as the year came to a close.

Let us hope that 1990 and the years to follow are somewhat stable and disputes are cleared peacefully. Let us pray that scientists find the cure to diseases which cause so many deaths, particularly those of the past decade.

Let us try our best to help the unfortunate children of the world who are homeless, cold and hungry. There are so many suffering. Some are caught in poverty, they go to sleep with hunger

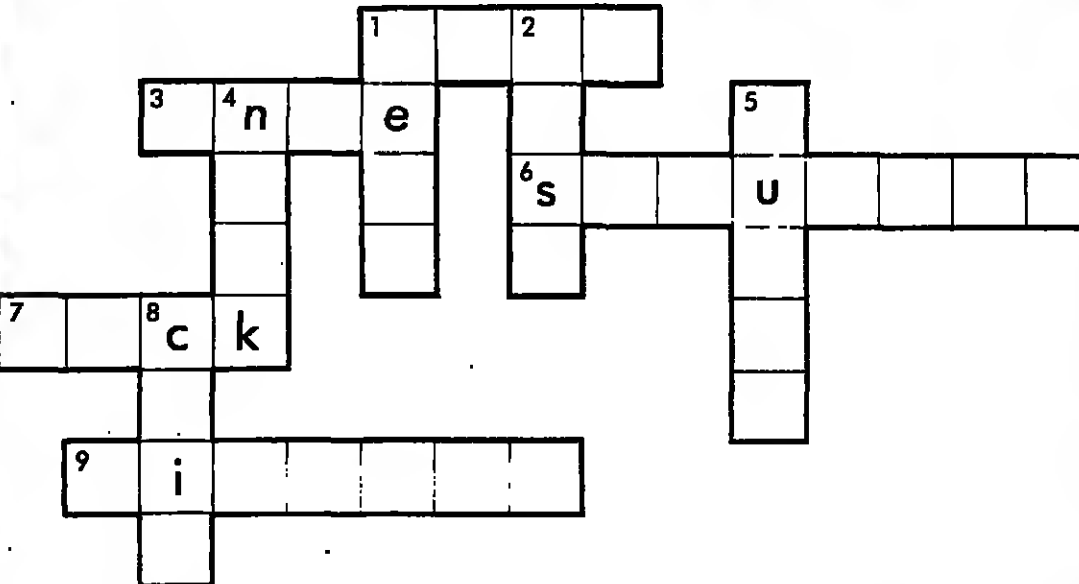
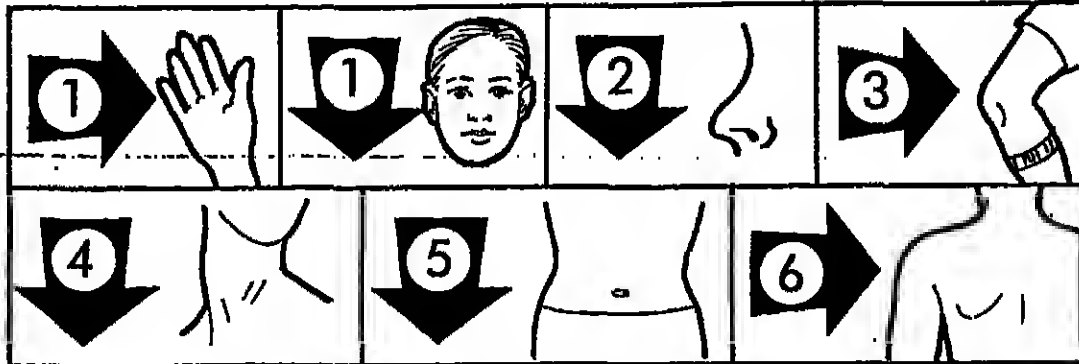
pangs every night and spend their days roaming aimlessly, looking for food. These are the luckier of the lot. Others are orphaned and living the trauma of losing the closest people to them, the people who provided them with the security, warmth and love essential to being. The worst off are those who have been permanently scarred by the evils of war...scared by something they had no hand in and probably fail to understand what it is all about.

With a little effort we may be able to draw a smile on their faces and show them that the world is not as cruel and ruthless as they may think.

Manal

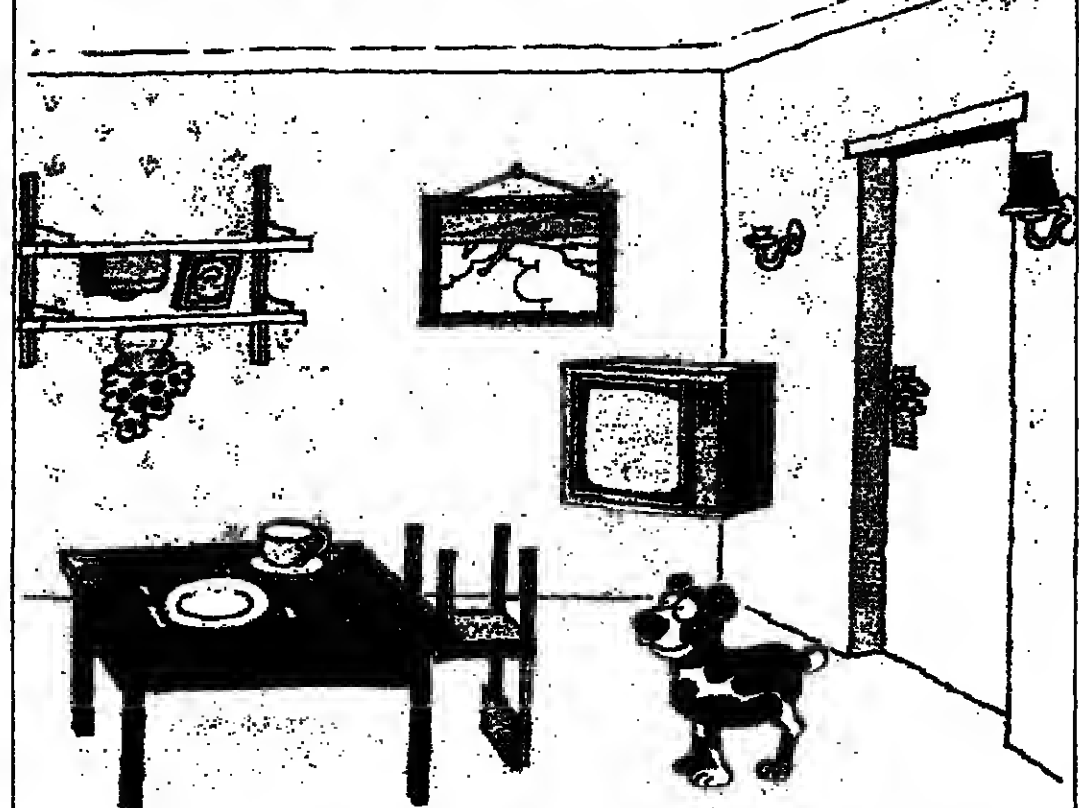
The body

Finish the puzzle.



Spot the mistake

There are ten mistakes in this picture. Can you find them?



Word search

MOUNTAINS

Here's a puzzle that will peak your interest. It's all about mountains the world over, and there are 44 for you to search out. Happy climbing!

AIR	CASCADE	IRON	RICHARDSON	URAL
ALLEGHENY	CATSKILL	LAVA	ROCKY	WHITE
ALP	CHEAT	LOOK out	RUSHMORE	WIND
ANDES	ELBRUS	MATTERHORN	SHASTA	ZEIL
APPALACHIAN	ETNA	OLYMPIA	SKIERS	
ARARAT	EVEREST	OPAL	SMOKY	
ATLAS	FUJI	OZARKS	SNOW	
BLANC	GREEN	POCONO	ST. HELEN	
BLUE RIDGE	HIMALAYAS	PYRENEES	STONE	
CANYONS	HOOD	RAINIER	TETONS	

N K Y D S S A S E S H A S T A
R O O K U N T N A D O U F I P
O O S R O H O Y T Z A U R Y P
H L B D E M A W A E J C R A A
R L Y L R L S R S I W E S T L
E Y E M A A K E E R N I L A A
T N W M P S H G R E E A N R C
T E I H N I D C E O S I A D H
A H V O I I A S I O M I K C I
M G T E R T T S N R N H A S A
B E R E R A E O T I O N S N N
T L U E R E C A E O Y C D U O
P L A A E O S R V O N E K P R
B A R N P N U T N A S E A Y I
T A E H C A T S K I L L I E Z

First and last

IF we want to describe someone or something as fake, insincere or cheap, we often use the word 'pinchbeck'. This word originated from Christopher Pinchbeck, a jeweller who specialized in making his own imitation gold and called it 'pinchbeck'.

The first underground car park built in Britain was opened in 1931 in Hastings.

The last time that the notorious Paris prison the Bastille, held any prisoners was on 14th of July, 1789 — the day when it was stormed at the beginning of the French Revolution. Not that there was a sudden mass of criminals escaping on the streets of Paris, because there were only seven captives inside at the time.

In 1912 the pilot of a biplane became the first to fly under all of the bridges across the River Thames!

Margarine was first produced in 1863 as a result of a competition to find a substitute for butter.

According to Archbishop Ussher, who lived in the seventeenth century, God created the world at 9.00 am on Sunday 23 October, 4004 BC.

The first human heart transplant operation was performed in Cape Town, South Africa, on 3rd of December, 1967.

The first time that the number of motor vehicles in Britain passed the one million mark was in 1923. Today there are over 19 million vehicles.

The first man in space to be brought safely back to earth was the Russian Yuri Gagarin who achieved this feat in April, 1961. He was tragically killed in an air crash in 1968.

The saying 'The nearer the bone, the sweeter the meat' was first recorded in a ballad written in 1559.

Stainless steel was first used in 1912. It was invented by Harry Bessemer.

The last time that 'press-gangs' were used to force men into joining the Royal Navy was about 1850. Men would sometimes be knocked out on shore, and when they came to, they would be on board ship, even sailing out to sea!

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
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Cruncher

Wuff

Max

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and

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What is the weather like where the others are going?

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NBA ROUNDUP

Knicks win over Magic

NEW YORK, Jan. 1, (AP): Trent Tucker scored 13 of his season-high 21 points in the fourth quarter as the New York Knicks established their longest winning streak in 17 years with a victory over the Orlando Magic Saturday.

The Knicks rallied from three four-point deficits in the final 12 minutes to remain the only National Basketball Association team that is unbeaten at home this season. They are 12-0 at Madison Square Garden after their ninth straight victory, matching the Los Angeles Lakers for the longest winning streak of the season.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks, who last won eight in a row in 1972-73, with 28 points.

Jazz 117, Heat 98
In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 26 of his 33 points in the second half as Utah handed Miami its sixth straight loss. Malone, held scoreless in the second quarter, had 12 points in the third period as Utah outscored Miami 26-16 to take a 75-67 lead. He added 14 in the final quarter as the Jazz broke the game open, outscoring Miami 42-31.

Malone, who shot 12-for-17 from the field, also grabbed 15 rebounds. John Stockton had 11 points and 17 assists for the Jazz. Glen Rice led Miami with 19 points and Rony Seikaly added 17 points and 16 rebounds.

Bulls 117, Bullets 112, (OT)
In Landover, Maryland, Michael Jordan, held to 20 points in regulation, scored eight in overtime as Chicago defeated Washington.

Chicago also got 28 points from Scottie Pippen, matching his season high, and Horace Grant had 21.

Jordan hit a jumper with 3:44 left to overtime to tie the game 107-107. Bill Cartwright's free throws at 2:07 put the Bulls ahead by two, and Jordan added baskets at 1:18 and 26.6 seconds to make it 113-109.

Washington's Darrell Walker had his second triple-double of the season, and fourth of his career, with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 13 assists. Jeff Malone led Washington with 29 points, and Bernard King had 24.

Hornets 111, Rockets 92
In Charlotte, North Carolina, Armon Gilliam's season-high 24 points and 15 rebounds helped Charlotte win its second consecutive game, a victory over Houston.

Charlotte outscored the Rockets 15-2 to open the fourth period and shot a season-high 55 per cent from the field, their first time over 50 per cent in 19 games.

It was the first time all season Charlotte has won back-to-back games and it was the team's first-ever win over Houston in five games.

Pacers 105, Atlanta 98
In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored 28 points and ignited a 14-4 stretch run that carried Indiana over Atlanta for its fifth straight victory.

Atlanta scored seven straight points on Dominique Wilkins' 3-point shot and baskets by Cliff Levingston and Antoine Carr to take a 92-91 lead with 5:17 left.

It was 101-96 after an exchange of points before Mike Sanders and Detlef Schrempf responded with baskets for Indiana to put the game out of reach.

Wilkins led Atlanta with 31 points and Rik Smits added 22 for Indiana.

Cavaliers 110, Suns 102
In Richfield, Ohio, Mark Price scored 12 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and Cleveland held Tom Chambers scoreless from the field in the second half as the Cavaliers stopped a five-game losing streak by beating Phoenix.

Price and Steve Kerr each hit two 3-pointers in the second half to bring Cleveland back from a 60-54 halftime deficit.

Pistons 117, Nets 106
In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Gerald Henderson led a 34-13 second-half run with two 3-pointers as Detroit broke open a close game and coasted to victory over New Jersey.

Joe Barry Carroll's hook shot with 6:22 remaining in the third period tied the score 64-64, but Detroit outscored the Nets 18-9 for the rest of the period for an 82-73 lead.

The Pistons went on to lead 98-77 less than four minutes into the fourth quarter and weren't threatened again.

Nuggets 118, Muggetta 108, (OT)
In Dallas, Rolando Blackman scored five points of his 29 points in overtime, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a victory that broke the Denver Nuggets' five-game winning streak.

James Donaldson added 20 points and 16 rebounds, recording his fifth consecutive double-double in those categories.

Hangover for Napoli

Happy New Year for Real Madrid

MADRID, Jan. 1, (Reuters): Spanish League leaders Real Madrid greeted the New Year as the happy holders of a goal-scoring record but their Italian counterparts Napoli were still suffering the hangover of their first defeat of the season.

Real trainer John Toshack's only regret after his side had thrashed Osasuna 4-1 on Saturday to notch up a record 40 goals in their first nine games was that the margin of victory was not even greater.

"We could have scored more goals if the conditions of the pitch had been better," the jubilant Briton said.

Napoli's defeat, 3-0 to middle-of-the-table Lazio, owed much to an uninspired performance from captain Diego Maradona and has made life tougher at the

top for the side, now only two points ahead of defending champions Internazionale.

By contrast Real, six points clear at the top, are brimming with confidence for their next big challenge — a clash with local rivals Atletico Madrid next weekend.

Toshack was full of praise for his attacking formation. "Michel (Gonzalez), Martin Vazquez and (Emilio) Butragueno played with great intelligence," he said.

"They moved all around the pitch, going forward and falling back. It's very difficult to stop them when they play like that."

Barcelona were smarting with indignation after a disputed penalty which contributed to their first home defeat of the season, a 4-3 loss to Sevilla.

Referee Brito Arceo awarded

Sevilla, then trailing 3-1, a penalty in the 77th minute when Ricardo Serna brought down Austrian Anton Polster, apparently well outside the penalty area.

Polster converted the penalty and two more goals followed within eight minutes. "Now I am beginning to understand why Barcelona never win any trophies", disconsolate Barcelona midfielder Jose Lopez Recarte said.

In Italy, Maradona was far from downhearted about Napoli's defeat.

"I'm happy," said the Argentine superstar, who found himself once again on the front pages of Italy's sports papers after skipping training and disappearing two days before the Lazio match.

"What was lacking? I don't know. It was a good Napoli, we played well but we weren't able to score. That's all," he added.

European champions AC Milan, who on Wednesday tackled bottom-of-the-table Verona, look the most promising side as the First Division reaches its halfway point.

A win against Verona, in a match postponed because of the World Club Championship match against Colombia's Atletico Nacional which Milan won last month, would put Milan into joint second place with Internazionale.

But Milan's Marco van Basten, crowned European Footballer of the Year last month for the second year running, advocated caution.

American Football League

Steelers upset Oilers in playoff overtime

HOUSTON, Jan. 1, (Reuters): Gary Anderson booted a 30-yard field goal in sudden death overtime to lift the Pittsburgh Steelers to a 26-23 upset victory over the Houston Oilers in the National Football League playoffs yesterday.

Anderson, who kicked four field goals without a miss, made the winner after Pittsburgh sent the game into sudden-death with a touchdown that tied the score at 23-23 with 46 seconds left in regulation time.

The victory moved Pittsburgh into the American Football Conference semifinals against the Denver Broncos next Sunday. The Buffalo Bills travel to Cleveland to play the Browns in the other semifinal on Saturday.

The National Football Conference wildcard playoff game also produced an upset as the visiting Los Angeles Rams beat the Philadelphia Eagles 21-

7. The Rams advanced to an NFC semifinal against the New York Giants on Sunday, while the San Francisco 49ers host the Minnesota Vikings on Saturday.

Pittsburgh's triumph continued an amazing comeback for the Steelers who lost their first two games this season by an aggregate 92-10 before finishing with a 9-7 record.

Anderson's deciding field goal came after a ferocious tackle of Lorenzo White by defensive back Rod Woodson caused a fumble on Houston's first possession of overtime. Woodson also made the recovery on Pittsburgh's 46-yard line.

Behind the strong running of fullback Merrill Hoge, Pittsburgh moved to the Houston 33 yard line to set up Anderson's game-winning kick.

The Steelers had trailed Houston, who came on strong after a slow start, by 23-16 with the running

out but tied the game with less than a minute left when Hoge dived in from the one for a touchdown that capped an 82-yard march.

Pittsburgh won the coin toss to start overtime and received the kickoff but were forced to punt. Woodson's crushing tackle that forced the fumble came soon after.

The Steelers led Houston 10-6 at the half, scoring the only touchdown by capitalising on a blocked punt by Jerry Olsavsky. On fourth and inches from the nine, running back Tim Worley burst through the line and scored for a 7-0 lead.

A pair of field goals by Tony Zendejas moved Houston within one before Anderson made it 10-6 with a 25-yard kick.

Each team had a field goal in the third quarter and Anderson booted another at the start of the fourth to give Pittsburgh a 16-9 lead.



Manchester United's Mark Hughes dodges past Wimbledon's John Scales (right) during their First Division match at Plough Lane. The match was drawn 2-2. (Reuters wirephoto)

Liverpool most likely to stay on top in 90's

LONDON, Jan. 1, (Reuters): After more than two decades Liverpool still bide English soccer.

They enter the 1990s on top of the First Division and the club most likely to stay there.

If the colossus wobbles, then it is out for long and woe to anyone who tries to write them off.

Under the guidance of Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley and now Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool have come to dominate the English

game in an unprecedented manner.

Their 17 League title successes (10 since 1973) far outstrip nearest challengers Arsenal and Everton (nine each).

Three of their Football Association (FA) Cup successes have come since 1974 and they are the current holders.

After Saturday's 1-0 League win over Charlton they go into the new year with a four-point lead over Aston Villa and five

ahead of champions Arsenal.

The squad is so strong Dalglish can even afford to leave the likes of Peter Beardsley and Steve McMahon on the substitutes bench. Many a club would give their eye-teeth for players with one quarter the skill, energy and vision of either man.

Given such a talented set of players, can Liverpool rule the next 10 years? Dalglish said: "If there is anybody going to be top this is the club that deserves to be."

Italy's Manfredonia emerges from coma

ROME, Jan. 1, (AP): Soccer player Lionello Manfredonia, who was felled by a heart attack during a Roma-Bologna match, emerged from a coma today and said his first words since he was stricken on Saturday.

"I had just wished him a happy new year," his wife, Carolina, told reporters at a Bologna hospital where Manfredonia was taken after collapsing five minutes into play. "He opened his eyes, asked how he wound up here, and asked me to go find him a cigarette."

Doctors had expressed worry that the 33-year-old athlete for Roma might have suffered brain damage when his heart stopped twice in the first minutes following the attack.

Manfredonia regained consciousness earlier than they expected, causing doctors to be more optimistic today.

Dante Brocchetti, head of the cardiology department of Bologna's Maggiore Hospital, Manfredonia "is able to move all limbs and remembers some events of his career, so I am convinced we are on good track."

The doctor also said the player asked his wife who won the match and was happy that his team was victorious.

While Manfredonia was in a coma, doctors had expressed doubts he would ever be able to play again, and it was unclear if today's earlier-than-expected rebounding changed his prognosis.

Ecuadorian wins St Silvester race

SAO PAULO, Jan. 1, (AP): Roland Vera of Ecuador yesterday won an unprecedented fourth consecutive win in Sao Paulo's annual St Silvester footrace.

The 24-year-old Vera, who won his first St Silvester race in 1986, ran the 12.6-km (7.8-mile) race in 36 minutes, 45 seconds.

In the woman's race, Maria Del Carmen Diaz of Mexico was the winner in 43:52.

Only two other athletes have won as many times as Vera, but not consecutively. They were: Gaston Roelants of Belgium in 1964, 1965, 1967 and 1968, and Colombia's Victor Morais in 1972, 1973, 1975 and 1981.

Second place went to Brazil's Valdenor Dos Santos in 37:09. He was followed by compatriots Diamantino Dos Santos in 37:28 and Delmir Dos Santos in 37:31. Fifth place went to Mexico's

Roberto Alonzo Maivaal in 37:34.

It took Vera about 10 minutes to work his way through hundreds of runners and make it to the front to take the lead in a steady drizzle and strong winds.

For a few kilometres, Vera shared the lead with Uruguay's Nelson Zamora, Diamantino Dos Santos and Valdenor Dos Santos, also of Brazil.

About halfway through the race Vera and Valdenor Dos Santos had left everyone else far behind. For about 15 minutes they ran side-by-side with one taking the lead for a few seconds before being overtaken by the other.

At the start of the final two-km (just over a mile) uphill stretch Dos Santos started firing and Vera quickly outdistanced him by about 30 metres (90 feet).

Dunhill powerboat surprises partygoers
New Year's Eve partygoers at Bahrain's Diplomat hotel received an unexpected thrill when they learned that the prize in the Dunhill draw was no less than a \$30,000 speedboat.

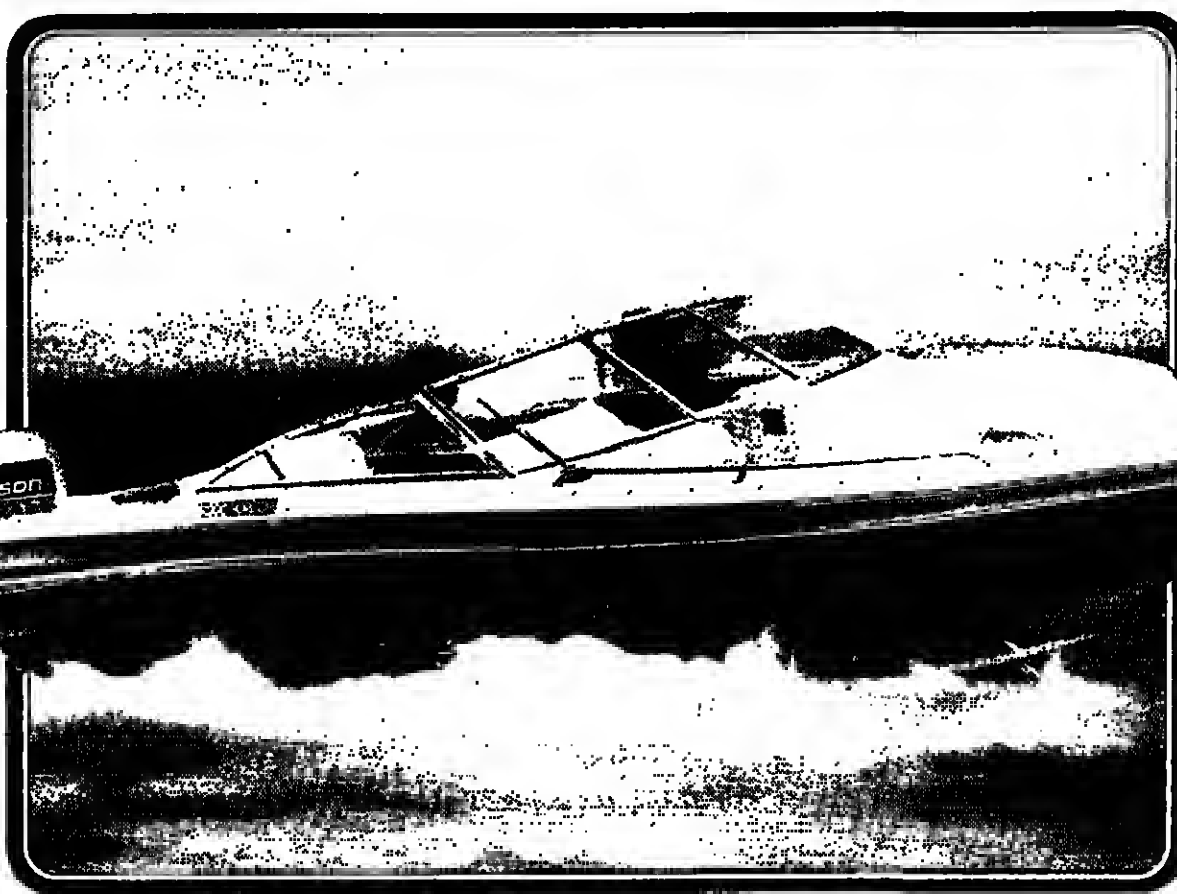
The gleaming 20 foot Horizon 200 speedboat with a 225 h.p. Johnson engine stood innocently at the hotel's entrance as unsuspecting guests filed into the hotel for Bahrain's most prestigious social event of the year.

At 11:30, Kathleen Pistillo, the well-known TV personality from Bahrain Channel 55 conducted the prize draw and announced the lucky prize winner's name. A replica model of the speedboat was revealed in the foyer of the hotel and a further announcement confirmed that indeed the magnificent speedboat everyone had admired at the entrance was in fact the Dunhill prize. A spontaneous round of applause followed as the dazed, yet delighted winner stepped up amidst a fanfare of music to receive the keys to this most glamorous of prizes.

Said an excited partygoer "we knew the prize was going to be special because Dunhill were presenting it, but we had no idea it would be as extravagant as this. We thought the boat at the entrance was just a display and couldn't possibly have been the evening's prize."

The powerboat, especially painted in Dunhill burgundy and grey was complete with stereo radio/cassette system, remote-controlled flashlights, navigational compass and trailer.

DUNHILL CONGRATULATES MR. SHANS BUTT ON WINNING THIS SUPERB 20 FOOT DELUXE SPEEDBOAT IN THE DUNHILL NEW YEAR'S EVE DRAW AT THE DIPLOMAT HOTEL BAHRAIN



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SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hopman Cup

PERTH, Jan 1. (AP) Arantxa Sanchez-Palacios defeated Pam Shriver 6-3, 6-3 tonight to lead Spain to a 2-1 victory over the United States in the final of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament at the Burswood Superdome.

Emilio Sanchez defeated John McEnroe 5-7, 7-5, 7-5 in an ill-tempered men's singles to give Spain a 1-0 lead, but the US levelled when McEnroe and Shriver defeated the brother and sister combination 6-3, 6-3 in the mixed doubles.

They left the women's singles to decide the final of the 12-team exhibition event and veteran Shriver proved no match for ultra-consistent 18-year-old French Open champion Sanchez.

Queensland Open

BRISBANE, Jan 1. (AP) Veteran Japanese player Etsuko Inoue upset ninth seeded Australian Anne Minter in three sets today in the first round of the \$150,000 Danone Queensland Open women's tennis championship at the Milton Tennis Centre.

Inoue, who went into the match with a 1-5 record against Minter, triumphed 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to gain the round of 32 in the 56-draw event.

Minter was playing her first tournament since the Federation Cup in Tokyo in October and her lack of fitness told in the final set.

Relay marathon

BARCELONA, Jan 1. (AP) US runners won the Ekiden-89 international relay marathon race by women's teams in Barcelona.

The US team won the 42.1-km (26-mile) race run through the streets of Barcelona in 2:19:22. Japan finished second, just three seconds behind.

Paris-Dakar rally

PARIS, Jan 1. (Reuters) Provisional leaders after the fourth stage of the Paris-Dakar rally from Sabha to Tumi in Libya today:

Cars:
1. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Peugeot four hours 49 minutes three seconds time penalties; 2. Bjorn Waldegard (Sweden) Peugeot 48 minutes seven seconds behind; 3. Philippe Wambere (France) Peugeot, 1:51:02; 4. Salvadori (Spain) Range Rover, 2:46:18; 5. Andrew Cowan (Britain) Mitsubishi, 2:49:22; 6. Henri Pescarolo (France) Range Rover, 3:34:59; 7. Alain Amoros (France) Peugeot, 3:37:13; 8. Raoul Raymond (France) Range Rover, 4:00:48.

BP nationals

WELLINGTON, Jan 1. (AP) Lars Wahlgren upset defending champion Kelly Evernden today as Swedish players sparked on the first day of the \$150,000 BP nationals tournament, opening event of the New Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour.

Fast-rising Wahlgren, who made the final of the Australian Indoor championships in October, outlasted fourth seeded New Zealander Evernden 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-5) in a marathon centre court battle at the Renoult Tennis Centre.

Wahlgren was joined in the second round of the 32-draw tournament by compatriots Lars Johansson and Christian Bergstrom.

Ski jumping

LAKE PLACID, New York, Jan 1. (AP) Daniel O'Meara of the US Nordic combined ski team made two metre jumps Saturday to win the annual New Year's 70-metre ski jump.

O'Meara, of the US, finished with 212.7 points, edging team-mate Joe Holland, also of the US, who collected 211.9 points on jumps of 84 and 85 metres.

Shield cricket

BRISBANE, Jan 1. (Reuters) Scores at the close of the third day of the four-day Sheffield Shield cricket match yesterday:

New South Wales 367 and 146 for seven (Trevor Bayliss 47, Steve Storey four for 19), Queensland 265 (Peter Clifford 75, Chris Smart 58).
Sheffield Shield standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, points):
Queensland 5 2 2 18
New South Wales 4 1 2 10
Victoria 6 1 5 0 10
Tasmania 4 0 4 0 4
South Australia 4 0 2 2 2
Western Australia 3 0 3 0 2

Dunwoody guilty

NEWBURY, Jan 1. (Reuters) Desert Orchid's jockey Richard Dunwoody picked up his second suspension this week when found guilty of using his whip with unreasonable frequency on Saturday.

Dunwoody was banned for two days after Brown Windsor 19 times from the second last fence, instead of the allowed figure of 10.

Welterweight title

AMIENS, France, Jan 1. (Reuters) Young French challenger Antoine Fernandez took the European welterweight title on Saturday when he defeated Italy's experienced defending champion Nino La Rocca on a unanimous points decision.

Fernandez, 24, surprised 30-year-old Mauritania-born La Rocca with a left hook which sent him flying into the ropes near the end of the first round.

The Frenchman, making his second attempt on a European crown, had been on the defensive until then from a furious opening onslaught by the Italian.

Victory wins Dubai powerboat race

By Gail Seery

VICTORY 7, a 32 foot long skater inboard, crewed by Randy Scism and Khalifa Hareb, took its third consecutive Group A win in yesterday's Dubai Offshore Powerboat Race. Following its past form, the boat opened out a lead early in the race and then took it easy. However, this was the first real test for the boat as it was racing against a fellow inboard for the first time.

The new boat, a 32 footer imported from America especially for this race, was crewed by Salem Juma and Joe Imperia, but any hopes that it would be able to break Victory 7's winning streak were dashed. At first the distance between the boats was close, and though Juma was trailing, it nevertheless appeared that he was within challenging distance. However by the end of the second lap it was clear that this would not be possible, and the Victory boat was able to take it easy.

Once again, the sheer power of the inboard boats was demonstrated with panache. On the first short lap of the race, the inboards came through with about three minutes between them and the rest of the pack.

On the second, identical lap, the gap had lengthened to around 6 minutes.

The next lap was a long one, and after the inboard boats had rounded the turn and disappeared, spectators had to wait a further 9 minutes before the third placed boat roared through. At the end of the second lap Victory 7 had a good twenty second lead over the Emirates boat in second place by the end of the race the gap had grown still more.

"That was the hardest we've ever run the boat," said Scism after the race. "In the beginning there was tough competition, but by the end of the second lap we'd taken a good lead, and we were confident that

there was no pressure. We took it easy for the last two laps," added Khalifa Hareb, making his debut in Victory 7, filling in for Hamad Buhalliba who is away in Pakistan. Hareb has previously piloted Victory 166, which has dominated Group B.

"The inboard is safe and more comfortable than the outboards," added Hareb. "And the best thing is that you beat everybody," he joked.

Third place in Group A was taken in a special "Dubai Craft boat," crewed by Ahmed Juma, Nil Hotms and Faisal Siddiqui. They in turn were well ahead of the rest of the pack, and for many, could be said to have won the "real race," that between the boats of similar engine capabilities.

"At the start we were lying about ninth, and then we moved forwards," explained Ahmed Juma. "I was never looking at first or second place. We could not challenge the inboards who have 800hp more than us."

Fourth place in Group A was taken by Dubai 3, crewed by Jamal and Suhail Bin Khalifa, who were running third for much of the race, but who fell back on the penultimate lap.

The second of the Victory boats, crewed by Saeed and Hasher Al Maktoum, came in fifth in Group A, despite more of the problems which have dogged this boat's career. Hasher Al Maktoum said, "The engine stopped more than four times. We were stopped for ten minutes before we managed to restart the engine, and after that things were better."

The Kuwait entrants in Group A finished in a wedge. Khalid Al Khalid was the first of the Kuwaitis home, repeating an impressive performance which saw him take second overall in a special race in Dubai in October, held in honour of Sultan Qaboos. He was reporting no problems, and finished eighth in the Group. Al Khalid was driving a

Cougar catamaran, sponsored by Tilda Rice, and was partnered by Fadel Al Sayafe.

Mishal Al Jarallah was ninth, after more rpm problems with his centre engine. The Kourou sponsored boat was running well until the final lap. "We lost rpm on the final section," said thronomian Fernando. Jarallah had made adjustments to the boat aimed at solving this problem, but clearly this has not yet been sorted out. "We could have done much, much better," said a disappointed Fernando.

Hossam Al Sayafe, sponsored by Merit, came in tenth in Group A, after a dramatic problem which saw his left engine catching fire, and his throttleman Ghannem Al Othman swimming to fetch an additional fire extinguisher from another boat. This happened at the start of the race, but the pair continued on low power.

If Victory were able to repeat their success story in Group A, their bid for a hat trick in Group B was thwarted. Victory 166 led the group for much of the race, and afterwards Terry Ayres said that there was no problem with the boat or its engines, but it was Abdullah Ali Bin Haji and Khalid Ismail who took first place in a locally manufactured 26 foot Al Sha'ali Marine Tigercat. "When we got into the rougher water the longer boat had the advantage," added Ayres. Victory 266 is a 24 foot skater.

This is a splendid result for Al Sha'ali Marine, who are fast building an impressive race pedigree. Team-mates Saeed Al Sha'ali and Saleh Bukhari were not so lucky but still made it to fourth place in Group B.

Third place in Group B was taken by Khalid Bakht, despite two break downs. "We fell back and eight boats passed us, but we caught them again," explained Bakht who is partnered in the Unimarine/Unimax boat by his brother Homid.

Another Victory Skater 24 "Long

Shot" made it to fifth place in Group B, but on the whole, their domination of this class was broken.

Again the Kuwaiti entrants finished in a wedge. Thabit Al Banai was the first racer home in Group B, taking 12th place, followed by Hisham and Saleh Al Haye. Nawaf Al Marzook, brought his boat into fifteenth place.

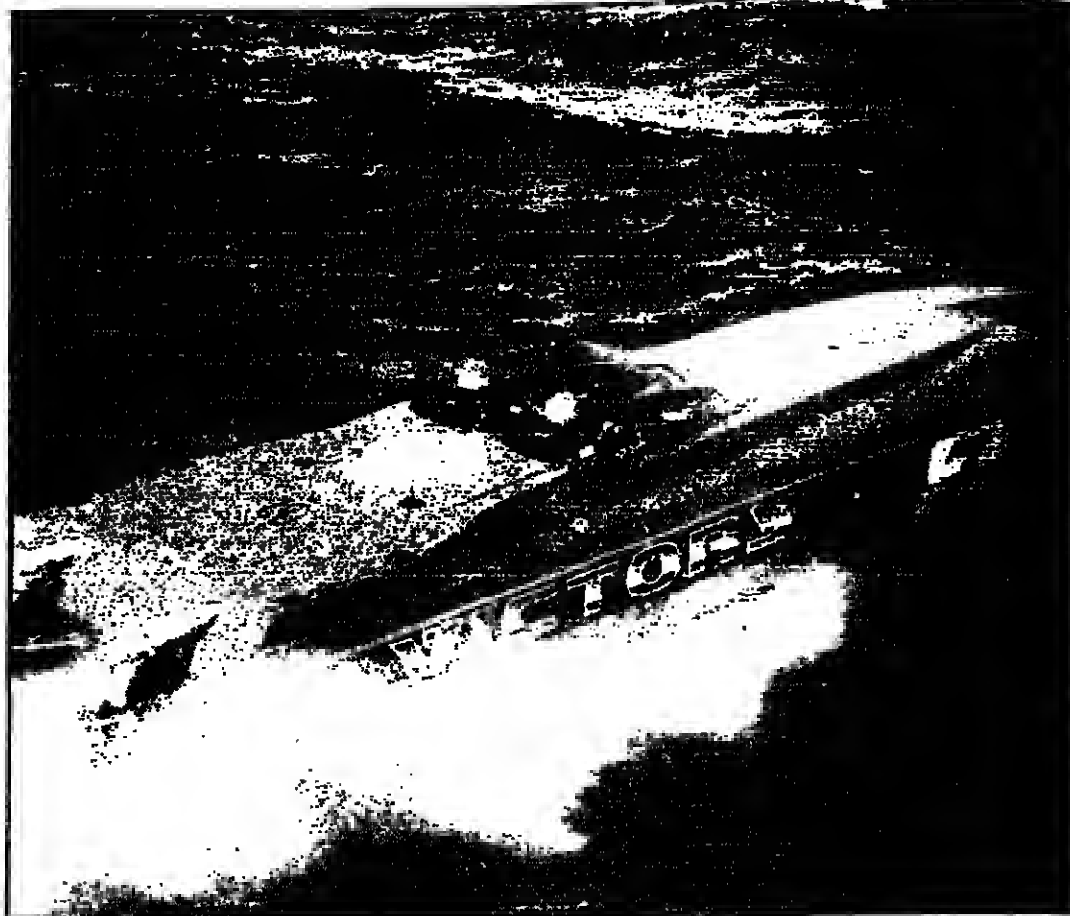
"The throttles broke and we went back to the engine and tied a rope," said Al Marzook. The engines had spark plug problems, and then the engine cover blew away. Finally the left engine broke down. "Then we cried," joked Marzook.

64 boats made it to the start buoy; of these 36 completed the race. The first boat back into harbour was the much vaunted home made "Victory boat," billed as the lightest boat competing anywhere. "The boat is definitely fast," said its driver Salem Khalifa. "Unfortunately we had engine problems and couldn't continue. We would definitely have won Group B."

Perhaps one of the saddest withdrawals was that of Khalifa Al Qatami and Abdullah Al Badr; the course had been lengthened for this race and the pair simply ran out of fuel in the last section of the event.

Ahmed Al Ansari was also unlucky, and lost his centre engine. "We were at the front of the pack, but we were continually losing speed, and we stopped altogether on the last lap." His brother Abdullah had an ignition problem which cost him precious minutes. To add to the problem, he then lost his way.

J. Mawet, secretary-general of the UIM, declared that he was very impressed with the standard of this race. Officer of the Day was Major Saeed Hareb. "The main thing was that this race was held as part of the Jebel Ali celebrations. I hoped we would do something good for them. Most important for me was that there were no casualties," said Hareb.



The Victory 7 races to victory.

Sri Lanka beat Pakistan

PERTH, Jan 1. (Reuters) Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by three wickets in their World Series Cup cricket tie yesterday but their surprise triumph was soured by a fine for a slow over rate.

Athula Samarasekera hit a splendid 60 and Aravinda de Silva 40 as the Sri Lankans, set 223 to record their first win of the triangular competition, reached their target for the loss of seven wickets with plenty to spare.

But the Sri Lankans, beaten by Australia in their two previous games, had to hand back most of their winning prize of 3,000 dollars (\$2,400) when they were fined 1,800 dollars (\$1,440) for bowling fewer than the required 50 overs.

Pakistan were also fined for a poor over rate but their 600 dollar (\$480) penalty took into account a four-minute injury delay to Sri Lankan opener Roshan Mahanama.

He had to leave the field hurt after a blow to the groin and when Hashim Tillekeratne was dismissed with the score on eight, the Sri Lankans looked to be heading for their third defeat.

But Asanka Gurusinha and Samarasekera shared a 95-run partnership to set up the impressive victory — Samarasekera lashing his 60 off 89 balls Gurusinha hit 37 from 50 deliveries.

A wounded Mahanama returned to steer his side to victory with a spirited 19 as the Sri Lankans notched only their third one-

day international success in Australia.

Pakistan had started their innings slowly, scoring just 40 runs off 17 overs with opener Aamer Malik hitting 21 runs from his first 55 balls.

They looked to be heading into trouble after losing Shoaib Mobammad and Mansoor Akhtar with the total on 51 until Saeed Anwar injected some urgency into the scoring with 33 runs off 36 balls before being run out with the score on 117.

Aamer continued to accumulate doggedly and was top scorer with 69. His half century came off 102 balls.

But it was Javed and captain Imran, making their first appearance in Australia this season, who made the difference with a magnificent late innings display of improvised hitting which carried the Pakistanis to 222 for seven.

Imran scored 32 off 25 balls and Miandad hit 43 before being dismissed by a brilliant catch in the swirling wind by Samarasekera.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN
Shoaib Mobammad b Ratnayake... 9
Aamer Malik b Ratnayake... 69
Mansoor Akhtar run out... 13
Saeed Anwar run out... 33
Javed Miandad c Samarasekera b Labrooy... 43
Imran Khan c and b Labrooy... 32
Ejaz Ahmed not out... 3
Wasim Akram run out... 0
Abdul Qadir not out... 0

Extras (b-1 lb-5 w-11 nb-31) ... 20
Total (seven wickets - 47 overs) 222
Fall of wickets: 1-27 2-51 3-117 4-151 5-206 6-220 7-221
Did not bat: Aaqib Javed, Waqar Younis

Bowling: Labrooy 10-1-43-2 (1nb 3w), Rav Ratnayake 10-2-33-2 (2nb), Wijekunawardene 7-0-27-0, Ramesh Ratnayake 9-0-54-0 (2w), Ranatunga 4-0-18-0 (3w), Gurusinha 7-0-41-0 (3w).

SRI LANKA
R Mahanama not out 19
A Samarasekera c Aaqib b Qadir 60
H Tillekeratne c Aamer b Akram 1
A Gurusinha b Younis 37
Aravinda de Silva c Imran b Akram 40
A Ranatunga run out 0
S Jayasuriya c Aamer b Imran 24
R Ratnayake c Anwar b Imran 2
Ratnayake not out 1
Extras (b-1 lb-22 w-10 nb-6) ... 39
Total (seven wickets - 45.3 overs) ... 223
Fall of wickets: 1-8 2-103 3-120 4-124 5-179 6-205 7-211
Did not bat: Graeme Labrooy, Kapila Wijekunawardene

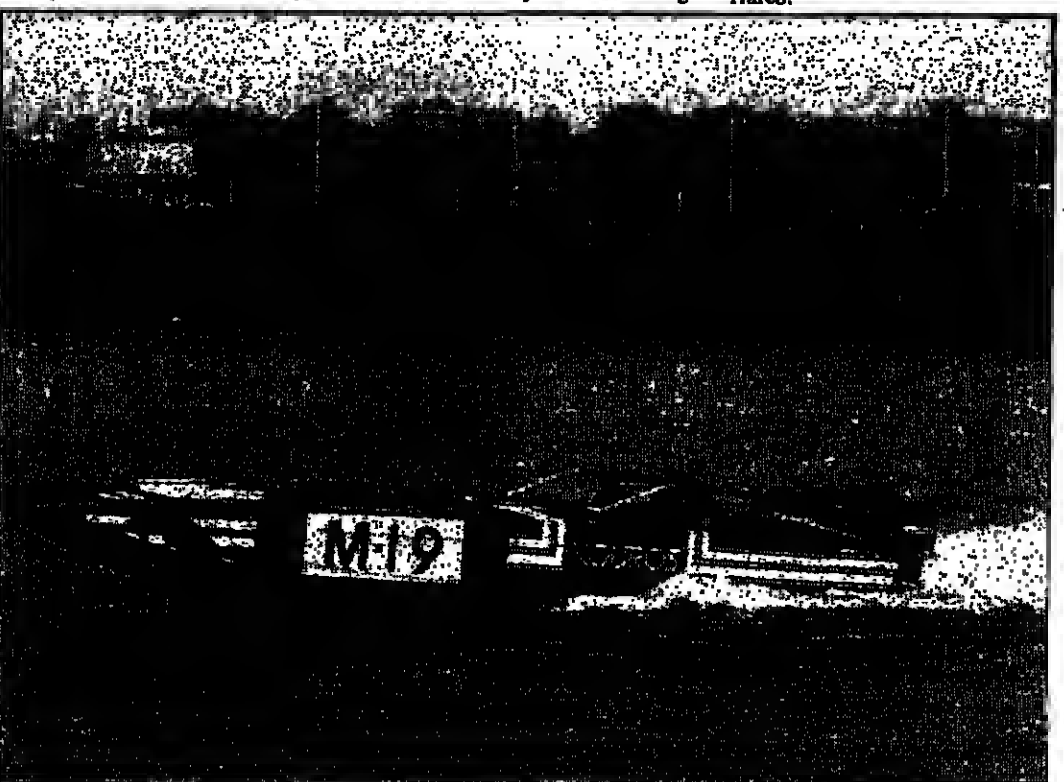
Bowling: Wasim Akram 10-1-37-2 (2nb 1w), Aaqib Javed 10-0-45-0 (1nb 1w), Waqar Younis 8-1-44-1 (2nb 5w), Imran 9.3-1-40-2 (3w), Qadir 8-0-34-1 (1nb)
Result: Sri Lanka won by three wickets
Man-of-the-Match: Athula Samarasekera
Next match: Australia v Pakistan Melbourne, Jan 3.

Standings

Standings after the third match. (Tabulate under matches played, won, lost, points, run rate)
Australia 2 2 0 4 492
Sri Lanka 3 1 2 2 438
Pakistan 1 1 0 4 272



Mishal Al Jarallah



Mishal in action during the race

Aston Villa and Arsenal keep pressure on Liverpool

LONDON, Jan 1. (Reuters) Aston Villa and Arsenal took advantage of Liverpool's late kick-off to close the gap at the top of English soccer's First Division with impressive victories today.

Arsenal began the new year in storming form, bouncing back from two successive defeats with a crushing 4-1 win at home to Crystal Palace. Villa won 3-0 at fifth-placed Chelsea to stay second, one point behind Liverpool.

But Liverpool had the opportunity to restore their lead of four points over Villa and five over champions Arsenal in their televised match at Nottingham Forest which started two hours after the rest of the First Division programme.

Arsenal striker Alan Smith hit two goals, opening the scoring after 22 minutes and notching up his 11th of the two minutes before halftime to make it 4-1.

Villa, who took over second spot from Arsenal when they beat the title holders 2-1 on Saturday, inflicted a third successive home defeat on Chelsea.

Arsenal were 2-0 up after 29 minutes through Smith and Lee Dixon. Mid-table Palace pulled a goal back four minutes later when Alan Pardew's shot deflected off Tony Adams' into the net.

Arsenal captain Adams restored the two-goal lead seven minutes before halftime and Smith made it four in the 43rd minute.

Villa maintained their championship challenge with a third successive victory. Full-back Kevin Gage opened the scoring in the 33rd minute. Tony Daley added the second after 47 and the League's leading scorer David Platt took his season's tally to 17 in the 57th minute.

Results

English Division One

Notts Forest	2	Liverpool	2
Arsenal	4	C Palace	1
Charlton	2	Southampton	4
Chelsea	0	Aston Villa	3
Coventry	0	Tottenham	0
Everton	2	Luton	1
M. United	0	QPR	0
Millwall	1	Derby	1
Norwich	0	Wimbledon	0
Swindon	2	Man City	0
Notts Forest v Liverpool	1705		

English Division Two

Blackburn	2	Bradford	2
Bournemouth	2	Plymouth	2
Hull	3	Sunderland	2
Leeds	1	Oldham	1
Middlesbrough	0	Stoke	1
Newcastle	1	Wolverhampton	4
Oxford	3	S. United	0
Portsmouth	2	Leicester	3
Port Vale	5	Ipswich	0
Watford	0	Swindon	2
West Bromwich	3	Brighton	0
West Ham	4	Barnsley	2

Scottish Premier Division

Hearts	2	Hibernian	0
Birmingham	1	Fulham	1
Blackpool	2	Huddersfield	2
Brentford	4	Walsall	0
Bristol City	2	Preston	1
Bury	2	L Orient	0
Cardiff v Reading	postponed		
Crews	1	Notts County	0
Northampton	1	Chesham	0
Rotherham	3	B Rovers	2
Shrewsbury	1	Swansea	1
Tranmere v Bolton	evening kickoff		
Wigan	4	Mansfield	0

English Division Four

Cambridge U.	0	Burnley	1
Carlisle	2	York	1
Chesterfield v Doncaster	late kickoff		
Colchester	3	Hartlepool	1
Exeter	3	Torquay	0
Grimsby	4	Stockport	2
Halifax	2	P Borough	2
Hereford	1	Gillingham	2
Maidstone	5	Aldershot	1
Rochdale	0	Southend	1
Scarborough	2	Lincoln	0
Wrexham	0	Scunthorpe	0

Scottish Division Two

Brechin	1	Montrose	1
Chesterfield	0	Doncaster	1

Sky Lark defeat Bombay Youth

SKY Lark C.C. defeat Bombay Youth C.C. and win the winner trophy of Haji Mohammad Sami Khan memorial cricket tournament at the Salmiya Cricket Club ground in Salmiya on Friday, 29, 89.

After winning the toss Sky Lark C.C. opted to bat first. They scored 112 runs in 25.1 overs and all were out. Phillip's Volter and Manzoor were top scorers 19, 12 and 10.

In reply Bombay Youth C.C. unable to manage the required target. They were all out at 95 runs in 26.3 overs. At one time match was in Bombay Youth band but the Sky Lark fielders and bowlers crushed the dream of Bombay Youth to win the final trophy. Bombay Youth top scorers were Yaqoob, Asbok and Daved, 26, 22 and 17.

At the end of the match, Haji Mohammad Sami Khan memorial cricket tournament reached in closing ceremony. This tournament started on Sept 15, and ended on Dec 29. The tournament chief guest, Syed Akbar Afridi, first secretary of Pakistan embassy in Kuwait gave away the prizes to the players. Bombay Youth C.C. received runners-up shield, prizes and honourable certificates. Tournament secretary Mohammad Hashi Khan also announced the Man of the Tournament. Mohammad Saleem from Sky Lark C.C. Mohmood Ahmed, tour managing director of Al Manca Container Service gave the prize to Mohammad Saleem.



Sky Lark team with the chief guest after winning the match.



Sky Lark captain receiving the trophy.



Salmiya club manager receiving the trophy.

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